A New and Accurate

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

Coaſt of Guinea,

Divided into the

GOLD, the SLAVE,

AND THE

IVORY *COASTS.*

CONTAINING

A Geographical, Political and Natural Hiſtory of the Kingdoms and Countries: With a Particular Account of the Riſe, Progreſs, and Preſent Condition of all the *European* Settlements upon that Coaſt; and the Juſt Meaſures for improving the ſeveral Branches of the *Guinea* Trade.

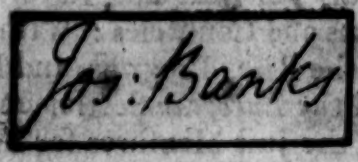
Illuſtrated with ſeveral CUTS.

Written Originally in Dutch *by* William Boſman, *Chief Factor for the* Dutch *at the Caſtle of St.* George *d'*Elmina. *And now faithfully done into* Engliſh.

To which is prefix'd, An Exact MAP of the whole Coaſt of *Guinea*, that was not in the Original.

The Second Edition.

London, Printed for J. KNAPTON, D. MIDWINTER, B. LINTOT, G. STRAHAN, J. ROUND, and E. BELL. MDCCXXI.


Jos: Banks

The AUTHOR's PREFACE.

'TIS a common Custom among Authors to usher in their Writings with a Preface; which some look upon as a meer Ornament of no great Importance, and others as a necessary Appendage, both for setting forth the Subject, Method and Design of the Performance, and for giving the Reader an Opportunity to know the Qualifications of his Author: And 'tis the latter of these that I here join with.

The World is at present so over-stock'd with Books, that 'tis almost impossible to bring any new Thing to Light, unless another new World were discovered; the Countries and People in all Parts of the World, being already described by various Authors. But 'twas an antient Saying among the Romans, *That* Africa *always produces something* New; *and to this Day the Saying is very just; for the Coast of* Guinea, *which is part of* Africa, *is for the most part unknown, not only to the* Dutch, *but to all* Europeans, *and no particular Description of it is yet come to Light; nor indeed any thing but a few Scraps scattered in Books written upon other Subjects, most of which are contrary to Truth, and afford but a sorry Sketch of* Guinea.

Being a lover from my Youth of the Descriptions of Travels and Voyages, and Accounts of Foreign Countries, I quickly took a distaste at such Authors as paulmed precarious Reports upon the World for certain Truths,

and having never ſtirr'd out of their native Country, take all for Truth that's handed to 'em from Abroad, and recommend it as ſuch to the World: In Imitation of Ariſtotle, *who being order'd by* Alexander *(as the Story goes) to write of the Nature of Animals, grounded and compleated his Performance upon the report of every Traveller he could meet with. In thoſe Days, when the World was not ſo well known as 'tis now, that ſort of Writing might go down: But now a-days a Man of Senſe will ſcarce venture upon it, conſidering that his Advances will be canvaſs'd by a Variety of Travellers, and where he departs from what they find to be the real Truth, he'll be expoſed for a fabulous Author. In this Country of* Holland, *we have had particularly two ſuch Writers in the laſt Century, who ſet forth many Books, and are now ſo well known by the Bulkyneſs of their Writings, and the manner of their Performances, that 'tis needleſs to ſay more of them than this, that the World do's 'em Juſtice enough if they credit but one half of what they write upon Foreign Subjects, without derogating from what Credit is due to their Works that relate to our own Country; for which Subject they are very well qualified. I could not forbear oppoſing them upon ſome Heads, and publiſhing the Truth of what they have miſrepreſented: And in ſo doing I reckon I have done ſome Service. And if they are ſo touched with my Freedom as to take me to task (according to their Threats) I am well aſſured that at leaſt they ſhall not fix any Falſhood upon me. I had always a longing deſire to go and ſee what I read of in Books; and during my fourteen Years ſtay upon the Coaſt of* Guinea, *I had an Opportunity of ſatisfying my Deſire, there being few or ſcarce any Places upon the Coaſt, where I have not ſtayed for ſome time, and can now ſpeak of with Experience.*

And while I thus gratify'd my own Curioſity, I conſider'd that Man was created not for himſelf alone, but likewiſe to ſerve his Neighbour; and that the fineſt things loſe their greateſt Splendour by being ſmothered in the

Breaſt

Breast of one Man: Upon this Consideration, I reckon'd my self bound to impart to my Country-men, what I have beheld with Pleasure; and that the rather, that I was desired so to do by my very good Friend to whom the ensuing Letters are addressed. Tho' my Friend's Demand was contrary to my Inclination, yet I chearfully complied with it; only I had some wandring Reflections upon the Reasons alledged in my first Letter, particularly that of my unpolish'd way of expressing my self. But considering I do not publish this for a Piece of consummate Rhetorick, but only to satisfie those who are curious in this Way, I hope to be excused. My sole Design is to gratifie those who are moved with the same Curiosity that influenced me, or may hereafter have an Opportunity of being concern'd on the Coast of Guinea; *to gratifie 'em, I say, with a distinct Account of the Disposition and Constitution of those Countries, and the various Opinions that prevail there. This is my aim, and I hope I shall in some Measure compass it. In fine, if what I have here publish'd, can be of the least use, I shall reckon my self richly rewarded for my Pains.*

At first I had contriv'd this Work, so, as to divide it into five Books, treating of so many several Subjects. The first, of the Disposition of the Gold Coast; its Extent, Division, Fertility, and the Employment or Livelihood of the Inhabitants. The second, of the Inhabitants in general, their Genius, Customs, Manners, Religion, Government and Habitations; with what relates thereunto. The third, of the Trade of the Coast, how 'tis carried on by the Dutch Company *and the other* Europeans, *and how the* Negroes *act their Part in it. The fourth, of the Animals of the Country, whether Wild or Tame, as* Quadrupedes, *Reptiles, Insects, and Fowl, besides the Fish, the Plants, and the Fruits. The fifth, of the Kingdoms of* Ladingcour, Coto, *the two* Popo's *and the charming Country of* Fida: *With a Conclusion describing a coasting Voyage perform'd by me in the Year* 1698.

But since, having the Opportunity to send the whole Matter of the above-mentioned five Books, in several Letters to my very good Friend, I chose to alter the Division, and

and draw it all up in twenty Letters, including in each as much as the Conveniency of Time allow'd. To these twenty Letters, there are two more annex'd, which were writ to me by two Persons in our Service, and relate to the Countries where they were employed, and where I had never been. This new Division, I hope, will not be unacceptable to the Reader, in Regard that every Letter still presents him with something that's new. I must own it pleases me better than the first.

For some time after I begun this Work, I was much troubled that there was not a Man on the Coast that could draw and design: But after I had gone a great way in it, there came one to the Coast that was versed in that Art; upon which I immediately set him to work, upon drawing all the Forts (Dutch, English *and* Danish) *to the East of* Elmina; *and for his greater Conveniency I made the Journey with him my self, being sent by our General upon Affairs relating to our Trade. The Animals, which upon my Order were brought to us, he drew by the Life; and the Forts he drew with a just regard to Perspective. But Death, which spares no Man, visited my Draughts-Man, just when we were ready to take another Journey to the West of* Elmina. *In a few Days time he was well and dead; and so left me provided only with the half of what I designed, there being no other Draughts-Man on the Coast.*

I have purposely affected Brevity, otherwise I could have drove out to a bulky Volume: But considering that 'tis tedious and nauseous to dwell long upon one thing, I presume the Reader will be thereby gratified.

The

THE CONTENTS

LETTER I.

Of *the Gold Coaſt in general: Of the Country of* Axim, *with the* Dutch *and* Brandenburgh *Settlements there; and of* Rio de Cobre.

Let. 2. *Of the* Anteſe *Country, with the* Engliſh *and* Dutch *Forts there: Of the Village and River of* Chama, *and of the* Jabiſe *and* Adomeſe *Land.*

Let. 3. *Of the Country of* Commany, *the* Engliſh *and* Dutch *Forts there, and the Caſtle and Town of* Elmina.

Let. 4. *Of* Fetu, *the* Dutch *Fort* Couraadsbourg, *the* Engliſh *chief Fort* Cabocorſe; *and of the Country of* Saboe, *and Fort* Naſſau *there: Of* Fantyn, *and the Places poſſeſſed there by the* Dutch *and* Engliſh.

Let. 5. *Of* Acron, *and the* Dutch Fort Leydſaamheid; *of* Agonna, *and the* Engliſh *Fort there: Of the Kingdom of* Aquamboe, *and the* Engliſh, Dutch *and* Daniſh *Forts in it.*

Let. 6. *Of the ſeveral ſorts of Gold; the places from whence 'tis brought, and the ways of digging, gathering and trying of it.*

Let. 7. *Of the Quantity of Gold exported, whether, and by whom. The Officers in the* Dutch *Service, and the Government obſerved among 'em.*

Let. 8. *Of the Unhealthineſs, Climate, Seaſon,* &c. *of the Coaſt.*

Let. 9. *Of the Nature, Cuſtoms, Manners, Habit, Education, Manual Arts, Employments, Languages, Ranks of Diſtinction, Habitations and Muſical Inſtruments of the* Negroes *on the Gold Coaſt: With a Deſcription of the* Mulattoes.

Let. 10. *Of the Religion, and Idolatry of the* Negroes; *the Penalties they intail upon Crimes, and the manner of their Superſtition.*

Let. 11. *Of the Government of the* Negroes, *their Trials of Cauſes, whether Civil or Criminal; the Authority of the* European *Factors among 'em; the Occaſions of their frequent Wars; their way of waging War, the Authority of their Prieſts, and the Condition of their Kings.*

Let. 12. *Of the Marriages of the* Negroes; *the Employment of their Wives, the Diviſion of Property between Man and Wife; the Deſcent of Inheritance; the Ceremonies of Child-birth; and the other Circumſtances of Women, whether married or unmarried.*

Let. 13.

The CONTENTS.

Let. 13. *Of their Sickneſs, the Adminiſtration of Remedies, and their Idolatrous Offerings upon that Head: Of their Notions and Superſtitious Cuſtoms relating to Death and Funerals.*

Let. 14. *Of the Tame and Wild* Quadrupedes *of the Gold Coaſt, and particularly of the Elephants, Apes, and Camelions: Of the tame Fowl.*

Let. 15. *Of the common and uncommon Wild-fowl, Birds, Reptiles, Inſects and Fiſh.*

Let. 16. *Of the Trees, Plants and Fruits.*

Let. 17. *Of Snakes, Porcupines, Tygers, Jackals, Elephants, and deifyed Spiders.*

Let. 18. *Of the Slave-Coaſt in general; particularly of* Quahoe, Ladingour, Lampi; *their Soil, Government, Inhabitants, &c. Little* Popo, *Great* Popo, *and the charming Country of* Fida; *their Extent, Diſpoſition, Soil, and Conveniency for Trade; with the Cuſtoms, Manners, and Opinions of the Inhabitants.*

Let. 19. *Of the Government of* Fida, *their Trial and Puniſhment of Crimes; the Authority and Splendor of their King: Their Religion; their Idolatry addreſs'd to Snakes, Trees, and the Sea; with many odd Adventures relating to their Superſtitious Opinions.*

Let. 20. *Of the* Fidaſian Quadrupedes, *Fowls, Corn, Fruits, Soil, Wars, Arms: Of* Offra *or little* Ardra: *Of* Rio de Gabon; *the Gulph of* Guinea *and its Iſlands and Rivers. Of the adjacent Inhabitants, their Cuſtoms and Trade, and the Animals of their Country: Of* Cape Lopez di Gonſalvez; *the Iſland of St.* Thome, *and* Ilha Annaboa. *Of the Succeſs of a* Negroe *Impoſtor at the Court of* France.

Let. 21. *Of* Rio Formoſa, *or the River of* Benin, *the Intereſt of the* Portugueſe *and other* Europeans *there: The Progreſs of Trade there; the Government, Cuſtoms and Opinions of the Inhabitants of* Benin. *Of the Town of* Benin, *its preſent deſolate Condition, and the King's Court.*

Let. 22. *Of the Tooth (or Ivory) and Grain-Coaſt; with a particular Deſcription of its ſeveral Countries; the Nature, Cuſtoms, &c. of the Inhabitants, and the Circumſtances of the Trade upon that Coaſt.*



A Deſcription of the Gold Coaſt of GUINEA.

LETTER I.

Treating of the Gold Coaſt in General, and the Country of Axim *in Particular, the Setling of the* Dutch *and* Brandenburghers *there, the imprudent Conduct of the latter upon this Coaſt; of* Rio de Cobre, *and the unhappy Accident that happen'd to a Fort there.*

SIR,

YOur agreeable of *September* 1ſt 1700, was ſeaſonably handed to me by Capt. *N. N.* by which I am perfectly ſatisfy'd that, through your Diligence and Conduct, my Affairs are brought to a happy iſſue: The leaſt I can do, is to thank you, with Aſſurance, that I will ſlip no opportunity of making the beſt returns I am capable of in requital of ſuch unuſual Services: Indeed I am very unfit to do it in the way you oblige me to; you exact from me an accurate Deſcription of this Country, and though by my long Reſidence here, I am, or at leaſt ought to be in ſome meaſure acquainted with it, yet there are ſeveral Reaſons which I might alledge in Excuſe; among which no ſmall ones are, that my inſufficiency and unpoliſh'd way of expreſſing my ſelf, renders me uncapable to repreſent things

in their juſt propriety and connexion; but what I have yet to offer requires my more ſerious Conſideration, whether being actually in the Service of our *Weſt-India* Company, it is conſiſtent with my Duty to diſcover the ſtate of their Affairs; being very dubious on this Head, I could have heartily wiſh'd you would have ſpar'd me this heavy Task, fearing it was what might contribute to make you, as well as my ſelf, uneaſie. But at laſt, reflecting on your Friendſhip, and the Obligation receiv'd, I ſoon ſtepp'd over theſe and all other Difficulties, and am reſolved to endeavour your Satisfaction, upon promiſe that your uſual good-nature will excuſe my incorrect Stile; and reſt aſſured that however I ſucceed, a ſincere intention to oblige you to the utmoſt, is never wanting.

Returning to yours, I find your Curioſity extends it ſelf primarily to that Country where your Nephew was laſt placed by the General: In Anſwer to which, be pleaſed to take the following Account. This Country called *Axim*, is cultivated, and abounds with numerous Large and Beautiful Villages, all extraordinary populous; ſome of which are ſituate on the Sea-ſhore, and others farther on the Main Land; the moſt Conſiderable amongſt the former lie under the *Brandenburgian* and *Dutch* Forts, of which the latter is by much the beſt.

Our Fort here, is obliged for its preſent Name of St. *Anthony* to the *Portugueſe*, who were its firſt Maſters; but *Anno.* 1642. were driven from this and ſeveral other Places by our Countrymen: And indeed, formerly the *Portugueſe* ſerved for Setting-Dogs to ſpring the Game, which as ſoon as they had done, was ſeiz'd by others. But to return to our Fort, which was not great, but neatly and beautifully built as well as ſtrong and conveniently ſituated; 'tis provided with three good Batteries beſides Breaſt-works, Out-works, and high Walls on the Land-ſide, as well as a ſufficient quantity of Guns;

and

and if it were well ſtored with Proviſions, might hold out againſt a ſtrong Army of the Natives: I am heartily ſorry I cannot ſend you a Draught of it, becauſe the main Artiſt, who was about it, died before it was half finiſhed; for which Reaſon you are not to expect ſo much as a Sketch of any Fort Weſt of *Elmira*, but the Drawings of thoſe Eaſtward are at your Service.

You cannot be ignorant that your Nephew is made Principal Factor by Mr. *N. N.* who is entruſted by the Company as well as the General, with an abſolute Power over that whole Country; the Inhabitants being reduced to that entire Subjection, that they dare not refuſe, but are firmly bound to ſerve the Factor to the utmoſt with what the Country affords, nor dare they decide any Judiciary Caſe without his Cognizance, he being a ſort of Chief Juſtice appointed to puniſh even the chief of the Negroes, according to the Cuſtom of the Country; But of their Laws I intend (if I live long enough) a more particular Account. But at preſent, before I proceed any farther, I ſhall preſent you with a ſmall Sketch of the *Guinea* Coaſt, eſpecially that call'd the Gold-Coaſt, and what is Poſſeſſed either by our own Country-men, or other *Europeans*.

Guinea is a large Country, extended ſeveral Hundred Miles, abounding with innumerable Kingdoms, and ſeveral Commonwealths.

Several Authors have repreſented *Guinea* as a mighty Kingdom, whoſe Prince by his Victoriouſneſs had ſubdued numerous Countries, and erected their whole extent of Land into one mighty Kingdom, which he called *Guinea*: How great this miſtake is, I hope to evince to you; ſince the very Name of *Guinea*, is not ſo much as known to the Natives here, nor the imaginary *Guinea* Monarchy yet to be found in the World.

The Gold-Coaſt being a part of *Guinea*, is extended about Sixty Miles, beginning with the Gold

River three Miles *Weſt* of *Aſſine*, or twelve above *Axim*, and ending with the Village *Ponni* ſeven or eight Miles *Eaſt* of *Acra*.

I am unwilling to detain you with a Deſcription of the Tract of Land betwixt *Aſſine* and *Rio*, or the River *Cobre*, about a Mile above our Fort; ſince the Trade of that Place is at preſent ſo inconſiderable that it is very little frequented, tho' nine or ten Years ago its Commerce was in a flouriſhing State; But ſince the Golden Country of *Aſſine* (from whence Gold was brought thither) was conquer'd, and almoſt devaſtated, the *Dinckin-raſe* Traffick has run at a low Ebb, and the little Gold-Duſt which is brought thither is either ſophiſticated or of very ſmall Value: wherefore I ſhall ſteer my Courſe along the Gold-Coaſt, and without conſidering the Rank of Precedence, take them fairly as they lie in my way, and deſcribe them as well as the compaſs of a Letter will permit.

The Countries from the *Ancoberſian* River to the Village *Ponni*, are Eleven in Number, *viz. Axim*, *Ante*, *Adom*, *Jabi*, *Commani*, *Fetu*, *Saboe*, *Fantyn*, *Acron*, *Agonna*, and *Aquamboe*; each containing one, two, or three Towns or Villages, lying upon the Sea-ſhore, as well under, as betwixt the Forts of the *Europeans*; their greateſt and moſt populous Towns being generally farther on Land. Seven of theſe are Kingdoms, governed by their reſpective Kings; and the reſt being govern'd by ſome of the principal Men amongſt them, ſeem to approach nearer to Commonwealths: But I ſhall give you a more particular Account of them hereafter, and in order thereto at preſent begin with *Axim*; which, as the Notion of Power runs here, was formerly a potent Monarchy; but the Arrival of the *Brandenburghers* divided the Inhabitants, one part of them putting themſelves under the Protection of the New-comers, in expectation of an eaſier Government and looſer Reins, in which they were not miſtaken, as the Con-

Conſequence evinced; but the other part, which were the moſt honeſt and leaſt changeable, ſtaid under our Government. But if we take a view of this Country before this time, we ſhall find it to be extended ſix Miles in length, computing from the mentioned *Rio Cobre*, (*Ancober*, or the Serpentine River, ſo called by the *Portugueze*, from its intricate winding and in-land Courſe of twenty Miles) to the Village *Boeſwa* a Mile *Weſt* of our Fort, near the Village of *Boutry*.

The *Negro* Inhabitants are generally very rich, driving a great Trade with the *Europeans* for Gold, which they chiefly vend to the *Engliſh* and *Zealand* Interlopers, notwithſtanding the ſevere Penalty they incurr thereby; for if we catch them, their ſo bought Goods are not only forfeited, but a heavy Fine is laid upon 'em: Not deterr'd I ſay by this, they all hope to eſcape; to effect which, they bribe our Slaves, (who are ſet as Watches and Spies over them) to let them paſs by Night; by which means we are hindred from having much above an Hundredth part of the Gold of this Land: And the plain Reaſon why the Natives run this Riſque of Trading with the Interlopers, is, that their Goods are ſometimes better than ours, and always to be had one third part cheaper; whereby they are encouraged againſt the danger, very well knowing, that a ſucceſsful Correſpondence will ſoon enrich them.

Theſe Interlopers are ſeveral of them fitted out by private Merchants in *Holland* to drive this Trade; which is in effect, to rob the *Weſt-India* Company of the advantage of their Placaat or Patent obtain'd from the States-General, which empowers them to Trade on this Coaſt, excluſive of all others; and of puniſhing all Offenders againſt this Right with the loſs of Life and Goods; all their Ships, in caſe they ſeize them, being free Prize: But tho' in my time we have taken ſeveral of them, the Law has not been rigorouſly put in Execution, but we generally

content our ſelves with making Examples of ſome of the Ring-Leaders *in terrorem*; and when they are ſeiz'd, ſome one or other of the Company's Officers find it their Intereſt to let them ſlip through their Fingers. But not to accuſe any body, ſince every one hath his Frailty, let us return to the Inhabitants of *Axim*, whom we find induſtriouſly employ'd either in Trade, Fiſhing, or Agriculture, and that is chiefly exerciſed in the Culture of *Rice*, which grows here above all other places in an incredible abundance, and is tranſported hence all the Gold-Coaſt over. The Inhabitants in lieu returning full Fraught with *Millet*, *Jammes*, *Potatoes*, and *Palm Oyl*; all which are very rare here, for the Soil is naturally moiſt, and tho' fit to produce *Rice*, and Fruit-Trees, doth not kindly yield other Fruits.

But having already hinted ſomething relating to the *Brandenburghers*, 'twill not, I hope, be tedious, to particularize a little on their preſent State. Their principal Fortreſs is not above three Miles *Eaſt* of our Fort St. *Anthony*, and is call'd *Frederic's-burg*; 'tis ſituate on the Hill *Mamfro* near the Village *Pocqueſoe*, and is handſome and reaſonably large, ſtrengthned with four large Batteries furniſhed with forty ſix Pieces of Ordnance, but too light and ſmall. The Gate of this Fort is the moſt Beautiful on all the Coaſt, but proportionably much too large for the Structure, ſo that the Garriſon ſeems to have an equal right with the Burghers of *Minde*, to the Advice that they ſhould keep their Gate cloſe ſhut for fear the Fort ſhould run away. On the *Eaſt* ſide it hath a beautiful Out-work, which deprives the Fortreſs of a great part of its Strength, wherefore it would be eaſily gain'd if attack'd on this ſide; beſides which, the greateſt fault in this Building is, that the Breaſt-works are built no higher than a Man's knee, and the Men thereby are continually expoſed defenceleſs to the ſhot from without; which is no ſmall Inconvenience in Wars with the *Blacks*, for

ſor no Perſon can come upon the Batteries but the *Negroes* eaſily reach him with a Muſquet-ſhot: For the reſt, the Building-part is not to be objected againſt, and is provided with a great many fine Dwellings within. The Draught pleaſe to excuſe for the Reaſon above.

The Commander in Chief of this Fort, and indeed of all the Poſſeſſions of the *Brandenburghers* on this Coaſt, conſiſting of two Forts and a Lodge, takes the Title of Director-General under his Electoral Highneſs of *Brandenburgh* and his *African* Company. For ſome time paſt their Commanders and Servants, except common Soldiers, have been moſt part *Dutch*, who in imitation of our Nation have always aimed at an abſolute Dominion over the *Blacks*; but never could yet accompliſh their End, being hitherto hindred by their inteſtine Diſſentions and Irregularities, or the villanous Nature of their *Negroes*, who having moſtly fled from us on occaſion of Crimes committed by them, have taken refuge under them.

In the time of my Reſidence here I can remember Seven of their Directors; the firſt, *John Nyman* an *Embdener*, a Man of ſound Judgment, good Sence and great Experience, who diſcharged his Office with the greateſt Fidelity and good Conduct, by which means he quitted this Country with a great deal of Honour, and left a very good Name behind him: He was ſucceeded by *John* and *Jacob Ten-Hooſt*, the Father and Son, who both acquired a large ſhare of Reputation, and kept their Subordinates in due Decorum; eſpecially the Son, who by good Nature and a civil Addreſs gain'd the Affection of the *Blacks*, and had every body at his devotion: By which means he eſtabliſhed the *Brandenburgian* Affairs in a much better Condition than any before him; and as they never had a better Governor, ſo 'tis very much to be doubted, they'll repent the time when they removed him, and appointed *Gysbrecht van Hoogvelde* in his Place; who before had been Factor in our

ſervice at *Axim*, where he treated thoſe under him ſo ill, that General *Joel Smits* and the Council were obliged to diſcharge and ſend him from the Coaſt, as incapable of their Service. However, being now Commander in Chief, to reconcile himſelf to the offended *Negroes* his old Enemies, he granted them ſeveral Franchiſes and Priviledges, which ſerved not only to leſſen the Power of the *Brandenburghers*, and lay the firſt Foundation of their Ruin, but after a ſhort Government the *Europeans* and *Blacks* joyntly roſe againſt him; and after trying him, diſcharged him once more the Government and Coaſt; Chooſing in his Place one *John van Laar* an Anabaptiſt, who was found to have a much better Talent at drinking of *Brandy* than at Buſineſs; and took ſo little Care of the Publick, that all went to Ruin; and he himſelf was timely removed by Death, to make way for *John Viſſer* his Succeſſor, a Perſon, who wanting even Common Senſe, was therefore incapable of that Truſt. Shortly after his Elevation his Factor at *Acoda* was killed by the *Negroes*, which he having neither ſufficient Conduct nor Power to revenge, they continued their unbridled Out-rages, at the Expence of the Lives of ſeveral of his *Europeans*; and laſtly, ſeizing his Perſon, they carry'd him into the inland Country, and after miſerably breaking almoſt all his Limbs, and faſtening abundance of Stones about his Body, drowned him in the Sea. This barbarous Murther was variouſly talked of here: but all agree that the *Europeans* under his Command conſented to, and abetted it; and ſome aſſert it was done by their Order; and *Adrian Grobbe* (choſen by the Negroes) his Succeſſor, is generally charged with the greateſt ſhare in this Crime; if he is innocent, I hope he will clear himſelf, but if guilty, may Heaven avenge it on him and his Accomplices: for it hath very perniciouſly weakned the Power of all the *Europeans* on this Coaſt, and filled them with apprehenſions not altogether

gether groundless, that if this bloody Fact escapes unpunished, no Body is here secure of Life. It hath already so enslaved the *Brandenburghers*, that I very much doubt whether ever they will regain the Mastery, for the *Negroes* having once got the upper-hand will sufficiently lord it over them.

I could not help imparting to you this Event, equally strange and detestable; to which I was indeed the rather induced, because as you are perfectly acquainted with all the *European* Trade of the *Embden* Company; so you may take an opportunity of informing them how their Affairs have been managed here for some Years past. But taking leave of this Fort, let us take a step two Miles and a half *Eastwards* below *Cape Tresspuntos*, where we find another *Brandenburgian* Fort at *Acoda* called *Dorothea*; which by order of our Superiors was amplified and delivered to them about eleven Years past; since which they have very considerably strengthen'd and improv'd it. It is a House covered with a flat Roof, on which are two small Batteries and half Curtains, upon which they have planted several light Pieces of Canon; it is indeed furnished with a sufficient number of Rooms and Conveniencies, though but slightly built, and somewhat crowded.

Betwixt *Maufro* and *Acoda*, the *Brandenburghers*, in 1674, built another Fort-House at the Village *Tacrama* in the middle of *Cape Tresspuntos*. Their General's design was to build a Fort here to preserve and defend the adjacent Watering-place in their Power. Upon the whole, the keeping of this Lodge, and the two former Forts, hath been so very expensive to them, that I am of Opinion they will not hastily augment their Charge by undertaking any new Building.

The *Brandenburgh* Affairs having insensibly swell'd this Letter to a larger bulk than I intended, and oblig'd me to defer my design'd Account of the Vegetables of the Country of *Axim* to another Opportunity

portunity; and that I may not cloy you at once, I shall conclude only with a Description of the above mentioned *Snake*-River, or River of *Ancaber*, which last Name it takes from the Country it runs through.

This River is too pleasant to be slightly passed over, and as I have already told you, is a Mile above our Fort St. *Anthony*; its Mouth is very wide, with so shallow Water, that I question whether 'tis passable with a Boat, but a little farther it grows deeper and narrower; after which, in several Miles no observable alteration appears. How far its inland Course extends I cannot inform you, tho' I have travelled above three small days Voyage upon it, and found it as pleasant as any part of the *Guinea* Coast, not excepting *Fida* it self: each of its Banks being adorned with fine lofty Trees, which afford the most agreeable shade in the World, defending the Traveller from the scorching Beams of the Sun. 'Tis also not unpleasant to observe the beautiful variegated Birds, and the sportive Apes, diverting themselves on the verdant Boughs all the way. To render it yet more charming, having sailed about a Mile up, you are entertain'd with the view of a fine populous Village, extending about a quarter of a Mile on its *Western* Shore: Of such Villages hereabouts are a great number, which together make up three several Countries, of which the First situate next the Sea is called *Ancober* (whether the River be obliged to the Country, or the Country to the River for its Name, I shall not determine;) the second next occurring Land is *Abocroe*, and the last *Eguira*. The first I observed was a Monarchy, and the other two Commonwealths. Several Years past we had a Fort in the Country of *Eguria*, and drove a very considerable Trade there; for besides the Afflux of Gold thither from all foreign Parts, the Country it self affords some Gold Mines; and I remember when I had the Government of *Axim*, a very rich one was discovered; but we lost our Footing there in a very tragical

tragical manner: For the Commander in Chief of the *Negroes*, being cloſely beſieged by our Men, (as Fame reports) ſhot Gold inſtead of Bullets, hinting by Signs that he was ready to treat, and afterwards trade with the Beſiegers, but in the midſt of their Negotiation he blew up himſelf and all his Enemies at once, as unfortunately as bravely, putting an end to our Siege and his Life, and like *Sampſon* revenging his Death upon his Enemies. To compaſs his Deſign, he had encouraged a Slave by promiſing him new Cloaths, to ſtand ready with a lighted Match, with which he was to touch the Powder when he ſaw him ſtamp with his Foot, which the ſilly Wretch but too punctually perform'd undiſcover'd by any but one of our Companies Slaves, who obſerving it, withdrew as ſilently as timely, being only left alive to bring us the News; and ſince we could get no better Account, we were obliged to believe this; it being but too certain that our Fort to the coſt of our Director and ſome of our Enemies was blown up. This being enough for the firſt time, be pleaſed to ſuſpend your Curioſity till the next opportunity, when you ſhall not fail of a farther Account from, Yours, *&c.*

LETTER II.

Deſcribing the Anteſe *Country about* Boutry, *the* Engliſh *and* Dutch *Forts there, and the* Engliſh *their* fraudulent *vending falſe Gold; the Beauty of the* Anteſe *Country and the River* Boutry, *the* Oyſters *which are there produced; the* Dutch *and* Engliſh *Forts at* Zaconde *and the Country adjacent; Of the Village* Chama *and the* Dutch *Fort there; together with the* Jabiſe *and* Adomſe-*Land, and the River* Chama; *With a Repreſentation of the Cruelty of the* Jabiſe *General.*

SIR,

I Hope that mine of the 15*th* — will reach you in due time; but the Ship which carries it being bound

bound for *Fida* to take in Slaves, and after that to touch at *Curacao* before it ſtands its Courſe homewards, I cannot expect it ſhould reach *Holland* in leſs than a Year; and the Ship that brings this, ſteering directly to *Europe* will arrive much ſooner: Wherefore, to take off the uneaſineſs of the delay, I here ſend you a Tranſcript of my former, wiſhing the Contents may meet your favourable reception.

Having deſcribed *Axim* in my firſt; I ſhall begin this with an Account of *Ante*, its next adjoining Neighbour, to which I ſhall add as much as Time and Convenience will permit. The Country of *Ante*, or as the Natives call it, *Hanté*, begins with the Village *Boeſwa*, two Miles below, or *Eaſtward* of *Acoda*; tho' we may very well take in, and begin with *Acoda* it ſelf, it being at preſent ſubject thereto. For ſeveral Years this Country was divided into the Upper and Lower *Ante*; *Axim* already deſcribed being accounted the former, and that we are about to deſcribe eſteemed the latter. It was formerly very potent and populous, being inhabited by a martial and prædatory People, who very much annoy'd us with frequent Onſets; but with continual Wars with thoſe of *Adom* and their other Neighbours, they are ſo enfeebled, that no Footſteps of their priſtine Glory are left. But of them more particularly hereafter.

At *Dikjeſchoftt*, properly called *Infuma*; the *Engliſh* built a ſmall Fort, *Anno* 1691. after they had ſeveral times diſputed the Ground with the *Brandenburghers*, who ſome time before had ſet up their Elector's Flag there; tho' at laſt, not finding it turn to any great Account, they quietly yielded it to the *Engliſh*, who advanced ſo leiſurely that it was but finiſhed in Six Years: After all which it was ſo inconſiderable and ſlight, that it hardly deſerv'd the Name of a Fort. I have often heard the *Engliſh* themſelves complain of it; for beſides that it is not a place of good Trade, the *Negroes* there-

thereabouts are ſo intractable, fraudulent, villanous and obſtinate, that the *Engliſh* cannot deal with them: For if they have recourſe to Violence in order to bring them to Reaſon, they are alſo oppoſed by Force, and that ſo warmly, that theſe five Years paſt they adventured to beſiege them in their Fortreſs, and were very near taking it; at laſt, they oblig'd the *Engliſh* to their Terms, without allowing them to exerciſe any Power over them; and hence proceeded an Alliance ſo ſtrict betwixt them, that they jointly agreed to cheat all the Ships that came to Trade there, by putting ſophiſticated Gold upon 'em, a Fraud which they have frequently practiſed; as they did about three Months paſt upon two ſmall *Engliſh* Ships (one of which was laden to the value of 1700 *l.* Sterling) for all which, the Maſter receiv'd only falſe Gold, ſo that he loſt his whole Voyage at once, nor did his Companion ſuffer much leſs; and what moſt ſurpriz'd them was, that they receiv'd it as well from the *Whites* as the *Negroes*. They apply'd themſelves to the *Engliſh* Chief Governor on the Coaſt, deſiring they might have their Goods return'd, or good Gold in exchange for the falſe: But to complain to him, was to go to the Devil to be confeſs'd: For he participating of the Fraud, would by no means help them. This Cheat is become ſo common, that it daily happens; but that the *Whites* have always a hand in it I dare not affirm; however I am very ſure, that this Place deſerves the Name of the falſe Mint of *Guinea*; of which every Trader who comes to the Coaſt ought to be warned; for the making of falſe Gold is here ſo common, that it is publickly ſold, and become a perfect Trade; the price Currant being in my Time about a Crown in good Gold for two Pounds *Sterling* of falſe.

About a Mile and half from this knaviſh Place, at the Village *Boutry*, commonly called *Boutroe*, is another ſmall ill-ſhap'd Fort, ſituated on a very high Hill, built in an oblong Form, and divided into two parts;

parts; ſtrengthned (if I may ſo ſay) with two inoffenſive Batteries, upon which are planted eight ſmall Guns. This is very improperly called *Batenſtein*, for it much better deſerves the Name of *Schadenſtein*, (*Bate* ſignifying Profit, and *Schade* Loſs,) in regard we have for ſeveral Years loſt much more than we got by it. At the Foot of this Hill is the Village *Boutry*, which is indifferent large and populous, inhabited by a People who Trade very fair with us, as not participating of the villanous Nature of thoſe of *Infuma*.

Exactly four Miles lower we meet with the Village *Zaconde*, where we have a ſmall Fort called *Orange*. A Muſquet-ſhot from hence is the Remains of an *Engliſh* Fort about as large as ours, of which more hereafter. Upon walking through the Country of *Ante*, reckoning from *Acoda* to a mile and half below *Zaconde* where it ends, I count it about eight or nine Miles long. Its pleaſant ſituation is become ſo famous by Mr. *Focquembourgh's* Deſcription, which adventures to compare it with the Country of *Cleve*, that leaving the truth of his Compariſon to the deciſion of thoſe that have ſeen both; I ſhall only in purſuance of my Deſign inform you, that this Country, as well as all the Gold-Coaſt, abounds in Hills, all enriched with extraordinary high and beautiful Trees; its Valleys betwixt the Hills are wide and extenſive, proper for the planting of all ſort of Fruits, and if they were as well cultivated as watered, would ſupply half the Coaſt with Eatables. The Earth produceth, in great abundance, very good Rice, the richeſt ſort of *Millet*, the Grain of which is red, *Jambs*, *Potatoes*, and other Fruits, all good in their kind; nor is the Soil in the leaſt deficient in Fruit-Trees. The Sugar-Canes grow here more and larger than any where elſe; ſo that I am not without hopes that a ſucceſsful Plantation may in time be here ſet on Foot. For Wine and Oil, the Palm affords what excels in quantity.

quantity as well as quality. In ſhort, it is a Land which yields its Manurers as plentiful a Crop as they can wiſh; being beſides very well furniſhed with all ſorts of tame, as well as wild Beaſts; but the laſt fatal War betwixt the *Anteans* and *Adomians* hath reduced it to a miſerable condition, and ſtript it of moſt of its Inhabitants: Beſides which, the miſerable few left behind are ſo diſpirited, that they ſhelter themſelves under our Fort near *Boutry*, leaving the greateſt part of the Land wild and uncultivated. 'Tis indeed deplorable to ſee it at preſent, and reflect on its former flouriſhing Condition in the Years 1690, and 1691. Before the War, I being then an Aſſiſtant, had an Opportunity of walking to *Boutry* and through this Country, when it regal'd the Eyes with the pleaſant Proſpect of numerous Villages well peopled, a plentiful Harveſt and abundance of Cattle; inſomuch that a Soldier who could very hardly live on his Subſiſtance Money in other places could fare deliciouſly here on the half: and if there be any difference in Places, with reſpect to their healthfulneſs, I ſhould prefer *Boutry* before all the reſt: For during my ſtay there, 'twas obſervable that fewer died there in proportion to the number of People and Time than any where: and I dare affirm, that if the ſame Care was taken upon the whole Coaſt as there, *Guinea* would ſoon loſe its dreadful mortal Name.

I had almoſt paſſed over the moſt charming Part of the whole *Anteſe*-Land, betwixt *Acoda* and *Boutry*, being watered by a freſh River which runs by our Fort to the inner part of the Land, planted with high Trees on both ſides; which, wide as it is, is over-ſhadowed by the Leaves. I have by frequent Experience found this River navigable three Miles from the Sea-ſhore; but tho' it reacheth farther, the violent Water-Falls which pour down from the Rocks into the River, render it unpaſſable beyond. It affords great plenty of

Fiſh,

Fiſh, notwithſtanding the incredible number of *Crocodiles* it is peſter'd with; which muſt neceſſarily devour vaſt quantities.

In my Deſcription of *Rio Cobre* I mentioned the great multitude of Apes there; But this Country is ſo full of theſe unlucky Animals, whoſe only Talent is Miſchief, that one would be apt to think that this were properly their Kingdom, or grand Rendezvous.

If my Memory doth not deceive me, you are a very great lover of River-Oyſters; be pleaſed therefore to make a Trip hither, and I will engage you ſhall be ſatisfied with them at the expence only of the trouble of gathering them, and in leſs than an hour's time I will undertake to ſhew you 100000 growing on the Trees: Pray don't be ſurpriz'd, you have before now heard of *Soland-Geeſe*, and *Chineſe* Fiſh which change into Fowl; perhaps you will tell me you believe neither, and perhaps I am of your mind, yet all this ſhall not prevent my Account how Oyſters grow here. On each ſide of the River grows a ſort of Trees, great and ſmall intermix'd, whoſe Branches ſhoot directly into the Water, (thoſe which remain above its Surface being withered and dry,) while the former become immediately leav'd with ſmall Oyſters, at firſt about the bigneſs of Shell-Snails, but in a very ſhort time grown to their mature ſize.

I remember to have mention'd the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Forts at *Zaconde*: They were indeed about ſix Years paſt in being, but the Trade at ſo low an Ebb, and the Officers of each Fort ſo jealous of the other, that they both liv'd in miſerable Poverty, at the Expence of both the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Companies. Not long after, the *Engliſh* Fortreſs was burnt and deſtroy'd by the *Antean-Negroes*; its chief Commander and ſome of the *Engliſh* being kill'd, and the reſt being plunder'd of all their own and the Company's Goods; and at preſent the Out-walls only

only are left ſtanding; by which, tho' very little to our Advantage, we are left the Maſters of this Place. Indeed laſt Year we traded conſiderably here for a large quantity of Gold, which the *Engliſh* underſtanding, made ſeveral Attempts to re-build their Fort, but were always obſtructed by the *Antean-Negroes*.

Before the War betwixt *Adom* and *Ante*; this *Zaconde* was one of the fineſt and Richeſt Villages, as well in Money, as People, upon the whole Coaſt: But the *Adomeſe* Conquerors entirely burnt and deſtroy'd it. The few ſlight Dwellings which are here at preſent were built ſince, and others are daily building, ſo that ere-long, it may grow to be an indifferent Village; but to reinſtate it in its flouriſhing Condition requires ſeveral Years.

I have formerly mention'd the pleaſantneſs of the *Anteſe* Country, but then came no farther than a little below *Boutry*. But the Land for two or three Miles round about theſe Forts is not leſs agreeable than the former; beſides that, here and behind *Tocorary*, a Mile *Weſt* of *Zaconde*, the Valleys are ſo much finer, that 'tis impoſſible for imagination to conceive any thing more charming. I have here ſeen a large Plain ſo plentifully and properly adorned with lofty Trees and Woods, as if Dame Nature had deſign'd to ſhew her Maſter-piece here; and between the Rows of Trees the Paths were all cover'd with white Sand, in which were obſervable the Foot-ſteps of Thouſands of *Harts*, *Elephants*, *Tygers*, *Wild-Cats* and other ſorts of Beaſts. In ſhort, this Place is ſo very plentiful that it is impoſſible to walk here without Raptures.

The Village or Town of *Tocorary*, or rather the Fort which was there, hath from time to time had ſeveral *European* Maſters: but 'tis now ſo ruin'd, that no viſible remnants of it are left. The *Engliſh*, *Dutch*, *Brandenburghers*, *Swedes* and *Danes* have all had their Turns in Poſſeſſion of it. In 1665, the

Engliſh were drove from thence by *De Ruyter*, they having before got Poſſeſſion by clandeſtine Means: But of this you may be further informed in *Brand*'s Life of *De Ruyter*. Since that time it hath yet once changed Maſters, but fell at laſt into our Hands; and ſince I came hither, our Traffick was tranſacted in a *Negroe*'s Houſe; but that not meeting with its deſired Succeſs, we abſolutely quitted the whole: and the Town was ſo deſtroy'd and burnt in the War by the *Adomeſe*, that it is at preſent inhabited by a few inconſiderable People only. But taking leave of the *Anteſe* Country for the preſent, let us turn towards the Town *Chama*, in the Way to which, is *Aboary* a Village, near which we had a Lodge for ſeveral Years; but it being found to conduce more to the Advantage of thoſe who were placed there than the Company's, 'twas quitted as an unneceſſary Charge. The Town *Chama* is moderately large and well peopled, but its Inhabitants ſo miſerably poor, that I do not believe they have any like them on the Gold-Coaſt. Our Fort here is about the ſize of that of *Boutry*; very ſmall, but a little longer: it hath four ſmall Batteries, and juſt as many Guns as the fore-named Place, and was called (as it is at preſent) St. *Sebaſtian's* by the *Portugueze*, from whom we took it. In our Wars with *England* it was in a manner levell'd with the Ground, being only encompaſſed with Palliſadoes, which the *Engliſh* perceiving, thought it would be no difficult matter to drive us from thence; and accordingly, in Conjunction with the *Fabiſhians* attack'd us: but found ſo vigorous and unexpected reſiſtance, that they were oblig'd to loſe their labour, and return to the place from whence they came; ever ſince which we have enjoyed it without the leaſt Interruption.

A little behind our Fort the *Fabiſh* Land begins, and extends it ſelf a few Miles towards the inland part of the Country: But I ſhall only deſcribe that part ſituate on the Coaſt. It is at preſent but a

ſmall

ſmall Diſtrict, and not very potent; tho' the firſt Kingdom which occurs in our deſcent from the higher Country. Its King is ſo great a Prince, that I ſhould conſider very ſeriouſly before I ſhould give him Credit for the value of 10*l. Sterling* in Goods, for fear he ſhould not be able to pay me: 'Tis indeed true, that he and his Subjects, if I may ſo call them, make ſo conſiderable an Advantage of the planting and ſelling of *Millet* yearly, that they would ſoon become Rich, if their too potent Neighbours did not continually fleece and keep them under, which they are not able to prevent.

The *Chamaſcian-River*, or *Rio de* St. *Juan*, called by the *Negroes Boſſum Pra*, which they adore as a God, (as the Word *Boſſum* ſignifies,) takes its Courſe from our Fort, paſſing by the *Fabiſhhian* and *Adomeſe* Country, as well as that of *Juffer*, and thence (if we may Credit the *Negroes*,) extending it ſelf about 100 Miles in Land. It is a ſmall matter leſs than the River of *Axcober*, but wide enough, and hath the advantage of being ſo laid, that loaden Boats may conveniently come into it from the Sea, if the Pilot be but ſo careful as to avoid a Rock near its Mouth, which the Sailors call the *Sugar*; for elſe they are liable to be ſplit, as it hath ſeveral times happened during my reſidence there, and ſome have been loſt, eſpecially if the Sea happen'd to turn or was rough. This River is very advantagious to us: for beſides the freſh Water with which our Ships ſtore themſelves, it furniſhes the Caſtle with Fuel for the Kitchens and Ovens, as alſo with Wood neceſſary for ſmall ſhipping; ſo that indeed the River is really more uſeful to us than the Fort it ſelf: and without the former I do not believe we ſhould long keep the latter. For beſides that the Commerce here is not conſiderable, and the keeping the Fortreſs very expenſive, we are continually plagu'd with a villainous ſort of *Negroes*, amongſt which thoſe of *Adom* are none of the beſt;

whoſe Country I have before told you, ſtretcheth it ſelf along by the River, and contains ſeveral Iſlands in the midſt of the ſaid River, adorned with fine Towns and Villages: And indeed, what hath ſurprized me moſt in this Country, is the wonderful ſituation of the *Adomeſe* Territories; for we find they are extended along both the Rivers *Chama* and *Ancober*, which are reckoned above 16 Miles diſtant from each other on the Strand; ſo that this Land muſt be very large, and ſeems to go up the River *Chama* in a ſtraight line, and then turns with a narrow ſlip of Land to *Rio-Cobre*. But to proceed; It is governed by five or ſix of the principal Men, there being here no King. One of theſe is ſo potent, that he can, as 'tis ſaid, carry the King of *Jabi* upon his Horns. This Republick, or Common-wealth, or rather Common-plague to Mankind, (as being an Aſſembly of Thieves and Villains,) if it could be unanimous, would be able to raiſe a powerful Army to the Terror of their Neighbours. *Anno* 1690, they joyntly began a War againſt the *Anteſe*, which continued three or four Years, till they had almoſt ruined the Country and People; who yet will not ſubmit to them, but continue to bid them Defiance.

They alſo were at War with the three Nations on the River of *Ancober* a few Years paſt; whom they oblig'd to buy a Peace at the price of a large Sum of Gold.

In theſe Expeditions they had a *Negroe* for their General, who was of a nature ſo violent for War that he could not live in peace; but as greedy of Wars as he was, no Engagement ſcarce happen'd with thoſe of *Ante* and the River, in which he was not obliged to his Heels for his Safety; ſo that if his Companions had been no better Soldiers than himſelf, he had ſoon been ſtopp'd in his Carrier: and yet the other Governors dare not diſpleaſe him, he being the richeſt of them all in Money and Men.

This

This *Anqua*, for ſo he is call'd, is more deteſtably bloody and barbarous than any *Negroe* I have met with on the whole Coaſt; nor is his Name ever mentioned without Horror.

This barbarous Monſter having in an Ingagement taken five of his principal *Anteſe* Enemies, *Anno* 1691, he wounded them all over; after which, with a more than brutal fury, he ſatiated, tho' not tired himſelf, by ſucking their Blood at their gaping Wounds; but bearing a more than ordinary Grudge againſt one of them, and not contented with the mentioned ſavage Cruelty, he cauſed him to be laid bound at his Feet, and his Body to be pierc'd with hot Irons, gathering the Blood that iſſued from him in a Veſſel, one half of which he drank, and offer'd up the reſt unto his God. In this manner doth this mercileſs bloody Wretch treat his conquer'd Enemies; and no wonder, for if Opportunity be wanting to exerciſe his Cruelty on them, his own Subjects always ſupply their Place; for his inſatiable thirſt after Blood muſt one way or other be ſatisfied. In the Year 1692, when he took the Field the ſecond time againſt the *Anteſe*, I went to give him a Viſit in his Camp, near *Chama*; he receiv'd me very civilly, and treated me very well, according to the Cuſtom of the Country: But whilſt he and I were diverting our ſelves together, a freſh Opportunity offer'd it ſelf for the Exerciſe of his brutiſh Cruelty: which was only a Negroe obſerving that one of his Wives had a new faſhion'd Coral on, and taking a part of it in his Hand to look on, without taking it off her Neck; which ſhe not thinking any hurt, freely permitted him to do. I ſhould here inform you by the way, that theſe Negroes allow their Wives all honeſt liberty of Converſation, even with their Slaves. But *Anqua* ſo reſented this innocent Freedom, that as ſoon as I was out of the Camp, he caus'd both Wife and Slave to be put to Death, drinking their Blood, as he uſeth to do thoſe of his Ene-

mies. For ſuch another trivial Crime, a little before, he had cauſed the Hands of one of his Wives to be cut off; after which, in deriſion, he uſed to command her to look his Head for Vermin, which being impoſſible with her Stumps, afforded him no ſmall Diverſion. I might indeed have ſpared this Account of his fell brutality till I come to treat of the Nature of the Negroes; But his inhumane Barbarity being unparallell'd among all the *Guineans*, and I being upon the Deſcription of his Country, I thought this place as proper; and that the rather, becauſe I am not at preſent furniſh'd with other matter. But to return to our Deſcription. The Natives here are very powerful, and rich; as being ſituate in the Paſs which the Iſland-Dealers muſt come thro' in order to Traffick; by which means they have a very good Opportunity of enriching themſelves by Trade. Beſides, they have ſeveral Gold Mines in their Country; One whereof was diſcovered about three Years paſt. The Riches of theſe Countries conſiſting in Gold, and the great Numbers of People, have ſo puft them up, that thoſe who deal with them ought to be endowed with a more than ordinary Diſcretion.

The Soil is very good and fruitful in Corn and other productions of the Earth; which it affords in ſuch Plenty, that, beſides what ſerves their own Neceſſities, they always expoſe large quantities to Sale. Here are competent Numbers of Cattle both tame and wild, and the River abundantly ſtores them with Fiſh, ſo that nothing is indeed here wanting that is neceſſary to humane ſubſiſtence.

This, Sir, is all I can inform you of relating to the Countries of *Jabi* and *Adom*, with which I ſhall conclude this Letter, and always remain with reſpect, Yours, *&c.*

LET.

LETTER III.

Containing a Deſcription of the Country of Commany: *of Our, and the* Engliſh *Fort there. A Relation of the War betwixt our Company and the Kingdom of* Commany, *and its Original Cauſe. A Deſcription of the Caſtle of* Elmina; *and, to conclude this Letter, of the Town of that Name.*

SIR,

OUR Deſcription of the *Gold-Coaſt* leads us at preſent to the Kingdom of *Commany*, which borders upon *Adom* and *Fabi*; but as I am juſt beginning according to my former method, I reaſonably recollect a Letter of yours, wherein you ſeem ſurprized at the War betwixt our Company and thoſe of *Commany*. I find you are miſinformed; you deſire I ſhould ſet you right. This part of your Letter I formerly purpoſely omitted; Anſwering, that at that time it was not convenient to reveal ſome ſecret Intrigues; and I am ſtill ſo far of the ſame mind, that I had much rather you would excuſe me, than oblige me to diſguſt ſome Men whoſe good Name and Reputation I ſhall always handle very tenderly. But ſince you have my Word that I will conceal nothing from you, I ſhall repreſent the whole Affair, as it appears to me and others here upon the Spot, who I think ought to be well acquainted with it; if we have a wrong Notion of it, a proper time will diſcover it.

Before I begin my intended relation I ſhall inform you, that the Country of *Commany* extends its ſelf five Miles long by the Sea-ſide, reckoning from the River of *Chama* to the Town *Mina*; and it is about as broad as long. In the middle of it, on the Strand, at little *Commany*, or *Ekke-Iokki* as the Negroes call it, we have an indifferent large Fort, built by Mr. *Swerts* in the Year 1688, called *Vreden-Burgh*; and a Muſquet-ſhot or two from thence the *Engliſh* have a very large Fort, of which more hereafter. Our Fort is a ſquare Building, ſtrengthned with good

Batteries, on which 32 Guns may be conveniently placed, there being ſo many Ports in the Breaſt-Work for them. It is large enough for 60 Men to live in; tho' at preſent there are not near ſo many, and but 20 Guns; notwithſtending all which it is ſufficient, not only to defend it ſelf againſt, but to repulſe a great Number of Negroes; as was found by experience, *Anno* 1695, when I commanded there. Our Enemies attack'd us by Night; I had but a very ſorry Garriſon, not full 20 Men, half of which were not capable of Service; and yet I forc'd them to retire with loſs, after a fight of five Hours. 'Twas wonderful, and no ſmall Sign of Divine Protection, that we loſt but two Men in this Action; for we had no Doors to moſt of our Gun-holes, and the Negroes pour'd ſmall-ſhot on us as thick as Hail; inſomuch that thoſe few Doors which were left to ſome Gun-holes were become like a Target which had been ſhot at for a Mark, and the very Staff which our Flag was faſten'd on, tho' it took up ſo little room, did not eſcape ſhot-free. You may imagine what Caſe we were in when one of them began to hack our very Doors with an Ax: But this Undertaker being kill'd, the reſt ſheer'd off. The General to whom I had repreſented my weak Condition, adviſed two Ships to anchor before our Fort, in order to ſupply me with Men and Ammunition; *Peter Hinken*, the Captain of one of theſe Veſſels, endeavouring to execute the General's Order (the day before I was attack'd) ſent his Boat full of Men with Orders to come to me; but they were no ſooner on Land than the Negroes fell upon them ſo furiouſly, even under our Cannon, that they kill'd ſeveral of them, which though I ſaw, I could not prevent; for attempting to fire upon the Enemy with our Cannon, I found them all Nailed; Of which piece of treacherous Villany, according to all appearance, my own Gunner was the Actor, whom I therefore ſent in Chains to the General (at our chief Place of

Re-

Reſidence,) who ſwore that he would puniſh him exemplarily; but inſtead of that, he ſoon after not only ſet him at liberty, but preferr'd him to a Gunner's Place of greater Importance.

For this reaſon I was forc'd to be an idle Spectator of the miſerable Slaughter of our Men, not being able to lend them the leaſt Aſſiſtance; and if the Negroes had at that inſtant ſtorm'd us, we were in no poſture of Reſiſtance. But they going to eat, gave me time to prepare for the Entertainment I gave them, as I have before told you. Here I cannot help relating a comical Accident which happen'd. Going to viſit the Poſts of our Fort, to ſee whether every Body was at their Duty, one of the Soldiers quitting his Poſt told me, that the Negroes well-knowing he had but one Hat in the World, had malicioufly ſhot away the Crown, which he would revenge if I would give him a few Grenadoes. I had no ſooner order'd him two, than he called out to the Negroes from the Breaſt-Work in their own Language, telling 'em he would preſent them with ſomething to eat; and kindling his Grenadoes, immediately threw them down amongſt them; they obſerving them to burn, crowded about them, and were at firſt very agreeably diverted; but when they burſt they ſo gall'd them, that they had no great Stomach to ſuch another Meal.

But now to come to the *Commanian-War*, upon which ſince our whole Welfare ſeems to depend, you muſt not think me tedious if I am very particular; it being impoſſible for you to comprehend or form any Notion of it, without you are throughly informed of its Original Source. Wherefore I ſhall look back as far as the Government of your very good Friend —— (deſiring you not to be diſpleaſed, if I mention ſome diſagreeable Particulars: for I aſſure you that I will not tranſgreſs the leaſt Tittle beyond the naked Truth.) He found this Place in a flouriſhing Condition and in Peace, though not firmly

firmly eſtabliſhed therein. But long-ſighted Obſervers could eaſily diſcern the Coals of diſcord kindling amongſt the *Commanians*, which was ready to burſt out into an open War upon the leaſt Occaſion, as indeed they had done in Mr. ——'s time, if not prevented by his Servant, who was Brother to the King of *Commany*. But Mr. —— being gone, and the mention'd Servant not only excluded out of all Negociations, but ill treated beſides; the *Commanians* only wanted a Pretext of breaking with us to put their Deſigns in Execution. The Year 1694 afforded them their wiſhed Opportunity: For ſome Miners being ſent to us from *Europe*, they were order'd to make an Eſſay at a Hill ſituate in *Commany* about half a Mile above our Fort *Vreden-Burgh*, that Mountain ſeeming to be well placed for their purpoſe, and withal promiſing to reward their Pains.

This Hill was at that time dedicated to one of their Gods, tho' there was ſcarce ever any talk of any ſuch thing before; but this was really only a pretence that they made uſe of to declare War againſt us. The Miners began their Work, but in few days, apprehending nothing, they were aſſaulted, miſerably abuſed, robbed of all they had, and thoſe who were not nimble enough, kept Priſoners for ſome time. We immediately complained of this ill uſage to the King of *Commany*, who was villainous enough to remove the blame from his own Door, and fix it upon one *John Kabes* a Negroe, who lived near our Fort, and with whom we alwas traded very conſiderably; urging that he had done it in revenge for the ill Treatment he had met with from our former Governour or Chief Commander. That this was only a feigned Excuſe was very evident: For the mentioned Negroe was ſo arrant a Coward, that he durſt not have ventur'd on an Attempt ſo dangerous without the King's expreſs Command. But the King was reſolved to break with us,

us, and becauſe he could find no better excuſe, made uſe of this.

Mr.——without any farther enquiry reſolved to go to *Commany* in Perſon, in order to take Satisfaction of *John Kabes* for the Injury; to which purpoſe he took ſome of the Forces of *Elmina* along with him; and being come to *Commany*, he immediately detach'd a Party to *John Kabes*'s Village, who came out to meet them, leading a Sheep to preſent to Mr.——and clear himſelf of what he was accuſed: but ſeeing the *Elmina* Forces fall upon his Goods without giving him any warning, and begin to plunder, as great a Coward as he was he put himſelf into a Poſture of Defence, and our People finding he was reſolved to ſell his Effects as dear as he could, the Skirmiſh began, and ſome on both ſides were very well beaten.

After this all our Affairs run at random. It ſhew'd the King of *Commany* our private, and *John Kabes* our profeſſed Enemy; who to revenge the Injury done him, invited the *Engliſh* into *Commany*, giving them a Dwelling-place about a Mile from our Fort in one of his Salt-Villages; reſolving to ſettle them with the firſt Opportunity in the old ruin'd Fort that they formerly poſſeſſed, which ſoon after ſucceeded according to his wiſh. For the *Engliſh* are ſo well fortify'd there, that 'twill be impoſſible to remove them unleſs in time of War: for their Fort is as large, and hath four Batteries as well as ours; beſides which, it hath alſo a Turret fit to be planted with Guns, from which they may extreamly incommode us, conſidering that they have more, and larger Cannon than ours; in ſhort, we are there likely to have a nice Bone to pick. What Injury this Neighbourhood hath already done our Trade, every one knows who is acquainted with this Coaſt; as alſo how eaſily it might have been prevented. But Mr.——was too fiery to think ſedately, or hearken to wiſe Counſels; and contrary to all Reaſon,

ſon, he deſired nothing ſo much as War, and the Honour he hoped to get thereby; vainly promiſing himſelf that he ſhould ſucceed as well as Mr. *Swerts* in 1687, who intirely conquer'd and ſubjected the *Commanians*, after they had in the War loſt their King and ſeveral of the greateſt Men in their Kingdom. The Gentlemen I am ſpeaking of deſign'd the ſame, not conſidering the difference between the Fortune and Succeſs of the one and the other. Notwithſtanding all which I dare aver, that he might have ſucceeded if he had not been deluded by the too great Opinion he had conceived of himſelf and his followers, and his too contemptible thoughts of his Enemies; for he hired an Army of *Jufferians* and *Cabeſterians* for leſs than 5000 *l.* Sterling, which were twice as ſtrong as that of *Commany*, and conſequently might have ſubdued them. But he was ready enough to imagine, that with this Force he could eaſily conquer not only *Commany*, but all the Coaſt; and accordingly, very impudently threatned the *Fantyneſe* and *Saboeſe*, that after he had corrected the *Commanians*, he would give them a diſagreeable Viſit. Theſe two Nations well knowing how conſiderably they were indebted to us, which if they endeavoured to pay otherwiſe than by their continual Villanies, was not owing to their want of will, but power; they ſoon embraced this favourable Opportunity in joyning their Forces with thoſe of *Commany*; to ſupport which, they believ'd it their unqueſtionable Intereſt; and by this means they became ſtronger than our Auxiliaries. A ſufficient proof of this is our firſt unfortunate Battel, in which we loſt all our Auxiliaries, and the Money they coſt us. This Fight was much more bloody than the Wars of the Natives uſually are; for the greateſt part of the Men we miſſed were kill'd, and the reſt taken Priſoners, by which we were reduced to a miſerable Eſtate, not knowing what Meaſures to take, as having made the moſt potent Nations of

the

the Country our Enemies. And indeed we ſhould never have been able to have made any freſh Attempt, if the Enemies themſelves had not ſeaſonably plaid an Opportunity into our Hands by their Inteſtine Diviſions. The King's Brother, *Tekki-Ankan* (the preſent King of *Commany*) came over to our Side, and was in a ſhort time ſtrengthned by the *Adomians* and other Auxiliaries; which occaſioned a ſecond Engagement, ſo warm on both ſides, that the Victory was long dubious, till at laſt it ſeemed to encline on our ſide ſo far that our Army fell greedily to plunder; which being obſerved by *Abe-Tecky* the *Commanian* King, (who excell'd all his Contemporary Negroes in Valour and Conduct, and had hitherto kept himſelf out of the Fight, and laid us this Bait) he unexpectedly marched towards us with freſh Forces, who had their Muſquets turned the wrong way in order to deceive us; which took ſo good effect, that we taking them for our Friends, continued our greedy courſe of plunder, till the King came upon us, and his Men turning their Muſquets fired ſo briskly at us, that they diverted us from the Prey, and obliged every Body to ſave his Life as well as he could: Thus leaving the *Commanians* a ſecond compleat Victory, thoſe who could eſcape, made the beſt of their way to our Fort.

Theſe were two pernicious Loſſes, the greateſt part of which undoubtedly ought to be charged on Mr.——For had he been ſo prudent, as to conceal his reſentment againſt the *Fantyneans* and *Saboeans*; and inſtead of irritating them, gain'd them by a Bribe, as he afterwards was obliged to do, though in vain; I do not believe they would have concern'd themſelves for the *Commanians*; by which means after he had (which was very feaſible) extirpated the *Commanians*, he might with the ſame Force have reduc'd the *Fantyneans* and *Saboeans* to Reaſon.

Our

Our Affairs continued in this poſture till Mr.—— expiring left the Government to his Succeſſor, Mr.——, who, as new Lords generally occaſions new Laws, finding we loſt by the War, by advice of thoſe whom the Company had entruſted, prudently reſolved, if poſſible, to put an end to the War; and accordingly, brought the *Commanians* to ſo good a temper, that we ſoon became Friends; they not only obliging themſelves to make good the Damage we had ſuſtained, but becoming as zealouſly engaged in our Intereſt as the poſture of Affairs could encourage us to hope: and it was very much to be wiſhed for the Advantage of our Company, that the Peace could have continued; which would have conſiderably advanced our Trade, and ſpared the large Summs we were obliged to diſburſe in the following War. But the *Engliſh* here envying our happy Concluſion of the War, and fearing it would not much conduce to their advantage, contriv'd methods to break the Peace. The means which they chiefly hit upon, and practiſed, were to poſſeſs the King, that conſidering his two Victories, he ought rather to ask than give Satisfaction, which they reinforc'd by inculcating our weak Condition and his Strength; urging, that we were not in a poſture to act offenſively again, but would be obliged, not only to entreat, but to buy a Peace of him, which would furniſh him with an opportunity of forcing his own Conditions upon us.

The King being not only a *Commanian* by Birth, and conſequently, of their turbulent Humour, but ſufficiently elevated by his paſt Victories, ſoon liſten'd to the *Engliſh* Advice of breaking with us. To which he was encouraged by their Aſſurance, that they would make his Cauſe their own, and accordingly ſupply him with all proper Neceſſaries: Upon which, he renewed his old Courſe, and did us as much miſchief as ever. This we patiently ſuffered for ſome time, vainly expecting relief from fair

fair means; but the longer we depended on them, they ſerved only to augment his Outrages, and oblige us to have recourſe to forcible means, which were now become abſolutely neceſſary to preſerve our Character amongſt the reſt of the Nations of this Country; and accordingly we began to think of warmer meaſures. And in Conjunction with other perſons proper to be conſulted, it was reſolved to bring a conſiderable Force into the Field, which ſhould, to make ſhort work at once, be able to chaſtiſe the *Commanians*; for this end we were of Opinion, that as the *Fantyneans* lived now in Amity with us, 'twould be very eaſie to gain them to our ſide, and by that means inable our ſelves to tame the King of *Commany* on Occaſion. We treated with them accordingly, and at laſt, in conſideration of the Value of 900 *l. Sterling* to be paid to them, they obliged themſelves to fight the *Commanians* till they had utterly extirpated them. We now thought our ſelves very ſecure, daily expecting the *Fantyneans* to take the Field; but here the *Engliſh* quaſh'd our Deſign, and in Order to keep their Word with the King of *Commany*, or at leaſt to throw an Obſtacle in our way, one of their Governours went from *Cabo-cors* to *Fantyn*, and prevailed with that People, for exactly the ſame Summ as we had before given them, to ſtand Neuter; which being only oppoſed by the *Braffo*, they ſoon diſpatch'd him out of the way, ſubſtituting immediately another in his Room. To one who knoweth how common and trivial a Crime Perjury is amongſt the Negroes, 'twill not appear incredible, that they ſhould rather ſtand ſtill for 1800 *l.* than fight for 900 *l.* Thus our hopeful Negotiation ended with the irrecoverable loſs of our Money.

The *Commanians* for this Reaſon growing more arrogant, began to inſult us more than ever: to remedy which, we agreed with the *Adomians* to aſſiſt us for leſs than 500 *l.* But they falling out about

about the diviſion of the Money, as well as the *Acaniſtians* and *Cabeſterchians*, (who were alſo by contract obliged to our Aſſiſtance) agreed only, not to ſtir one foot from home. Being thus diſappointed we caſt our laſt Anchor, and agreed with the *Dinkiraſchians* for the Summ of 800 *l.* to take our Side, but were herein ſo unhappy, that they falling into a War with their near Neighbours, were obliged to neglect our Cauſe to defend their own Country; they indeed were yet ſo honeſt as to return our Money, except only a ſmall quantity which ſtuck to the Fingers of their Meſſengers; we alſo got back the greateſt part of what we had given to the *Adomians*, but could not recover the leaſt part of what the *Fantyneans* had got of us. Being in this deſperate condition, we left no means unattempted to redreſs our ſelves, though in vain, for we were cheated on all ſides. We thought of making an honourable end with the King of *Commany*, but how to compaſs that we could not imagine; fearing, as the *Engliſh* promiſed, we ſhould be obliged to beg a Peace, which had certainly happen'd, if at this critical juncture a better and more honourable way had not offer'd it ſelf. The before-mentioned Brother of the King of *Commany*, who, for ſome piece of Villany (as 'tis reported) had, together with his Wife and Children been ſent as Slaves to *Suriname* by Mr.——but declared Free by the Company, were brought hither again. Upon his arrival, we employ'd him to ſound whether his Brother was moſt inclined to War or Peace, by which means we found, that he being tired with the former, would be very willing to accept the latter; making uſe of this Opportunity to our intire Satisfaction, we concluded a Peace upon very honourable and good Terms; neither ſide deſiring more than a ſettled and laſting Peace, as it had undoubtedly been, if an Accident as unexpected had not interrupted it: For we had but juſt begun to reliſh the Pleaſure of our

new

new Tranquillity, and learned to prefer a proſperous Eaſe before a pernicious War; when the *Engliſh* here being diſguſted at it, or growing jealous that the King would adhere too cloſe to us, we being his old Friends, and ſhake them off, or for ſome other unknown Reaſon; they murder'd him, in a manner eſteemed barbarous by all *Europeans*, when he came to divert himſelf amongſt them, and make merry with them; thus ungratefully rewarding the ſeveral Years Service he had done them.

This barbarous Action occaſioned a great Alteration on the Coaſt: The *Commanians* hitherto ſo ſtrictly allied to the *Engliſh*, became their moſt inveterate Enemies, reſolving at any Rate to revenge their King's Death: *Tecki Ankan*, on the contrary, became their greateſt Friend; and having a hand in his Brother's Murther, he fled from us and ſhelter'd himſelf amongſt the *Engliſh*, and agreed with them to fall upon the *Commanians* with the firſt Opportunity: They invited us to joyn with them, but that was refuſed, we not being obliged to enter into a War on their Account, and having but too long found how fatal a War is to our Commerce. They however went on with their Deſign, hiring the Negroes of *Saboe-Acany*, and *Cabes-Terra*, with which Auxiliaries *Tecki-Ankan* came into the Field, and engaged the *Commanians* with ſuch ill Succeſs, that notwithſtanding the Number of his Men was Quadruple to theirs, yet he was totally routed. The *Commanians* ow'd this ſignal Victory to their General, *Amo-Tecki*, a Negroe, who in Valour equall'd, if not exceeded their murther'd King.

Notwithſtanding we had been hitherto perfectly Neuter, the Negroe-General ſent a civil Meſſage to our Governor, together with ſeveral of the Sculls of his vanquiſhed Enemies, in token that he had reſolved to live and die in the Service of the *Hollanders*; his Meſſenger was civilly received, and after Thanks, and Preſents to the General, diſmiſſed.

Were I obliged to determine concerning this Action, I muſt own that we had then the faireſt Opportunity in the World to obſtruct the *Engliſh*, and reſent their former Injuries, if we had quitted *Tecki-Ankan* as he deſerted us, and joyn'd with the *Commanians* againſt them. But here was a Remora in the way: For one of the greateſt Villains of this Country being then Broker to the Company here, had ſo gain'd the Ear of Mr. —— our Governor, that he look'd upon all other Advice as pernicious. This Favourite, whether incouraged thereto by Intereſt, or prompted by an inveterate Hatred, is uncertain, was continually buzzing Stories in the Governor's Ears, in order to irritate him againſt the *Commanians*. They in the mean time diſcerning his Carriage where it was likely to end, were not afraid to offer us ſome Injuries: By which means *Akim* (ſo the Broker was call'd) gained his End; ſo he had now ſome Arguments to offer for beginning a War againſt them, and ſucceeded ſo well with Mr. —— that without conſulting or imparting it to the Council, he reſolved upon an Action equally perfidious and deteſtable: which was to attack the *Fetuans*, a People ſubject to the *Commanians*, contrary to the Common Faith of Nations, when they came under our Protection to Market with their Goods: Accordingly this was barbarouſly put in Execution, and they robb'd of all they brought, ſome of them kill'd, and 80 made Priſoners. Pray, Sir, be pleaſed to judge impartially; was not the Law of Nations herein violated in the higheſt Degree? I cannot help believing it was; and that his Excellency cannot anſwer his acting in this manner, without the Advice or Knowledge of the Council: Had they indeed conſented to this baſe Action, he might as a Pretext, have alledg'd that theſe of *Fetu* were juſtly puniſh'd, becauſe they murther'd ſome Women of *Elmina* as they were paſſing by them; tho' 'tis very improbable, becauſe the *Fetuans*

ans proteſted themſelves innocent of this Fact, and kept up a good Correſpondence with us; nor is it to be imagined they durſt ſo far injure us or offer ſuch a piece of Villany; or that after that they ſhould fearleſs and defenceleſs come to our Market to vend their Commodities, is what can never be believed by unprejudiced Perſons. But ſeveral boldly affirmed that the above-mention'd Murther of the Women was committed by the Contrivance and Command of *Akim* himſelf, and *Tecki-Ankan*; deſignedly to lay it to the Charge of the *Commanians*, in order to ſerve as a ſpecious Pretext to juſtify our breaking, and interrupting all Commerce with them. Whether this be true or falſe Heaven only can determine; But it is certain that the Gentlemen of the Council, though they reſented it as an abominable Action, were not willing to diſcover their Sentiments when paſt, becauſe the Blame muſt neceſſarily fall upon *Akim*, who they knew to be Villain enough to revenge himſelf at the expence of their Lives; for which Reaſon they paſſed it over in Silence.

By theſe unwarrantable Practices our Trade at *Elmina* was immediately ſtifled, and the *Commanians* and *Fetuans* were become our profeſſed Enemies; which ſo animated the *Engliſh*, that inſtead of making Peace with the *Saboeans* the ſtrongeſt of the two, they ſtrengthned themſelves to the utmoſt, and once more engaged the *Commanians*; who with their ſmall Force behaved themſelves ſo well, that they had certainly got the Day, if their General had not been obliged to retire out of the Army by a Wound he received; which ſo confounded them that after they had began to put their Enemies to Flight, upon miſſing their Commander, they betook themſelves to their Heels in the utmoſt diſorder; leaving *Tecki-Ankan* and his Followers an intire Victory; their General and ſeveral of the moſt conſiderable amongſt them being kill'd and taken

Priſoners. By this Succeſs *Tecki-Ankan* became King of *Commany*; and we as well as the *Engliſh* had a ſhare of Advantage by it; though we might if other Meaſures had been taken have done our ſelves much more conſiderable Services. But not to lay down Uncertainties for undeniable Truths, all Men whilſt they are Men are liable to Frailties, and the Managers of this Affair had their Frailties as well as others. Thus I have ſaid enough of the *Commanian* War, and its true Source, by which you may be the better enabled to ſpeak of it on Occaſion; and though I have left Blanks for the Names of our Governors, you cannot be ignorant who is there intended; I have alſo handled the whole as tenderly as was poſſible without prejudice to Truth; and what is ſaid to the diſadvantage of Mr.—— ought rather to be aſcribed to his miſtaken Opinion of his Favourite *Akim*, than to any ill Intention: But if you ask how he became ſo fond of him, 'tis reported that before he was preferred to the Government, this Wretch ſerved him with a Fidelity uncommon amongſt the *Negroes*, which tinctur'd him with ſuch a ſettled good Opinion of him, that he never could believe any thing againſt him. However it was, 'tis certain that his fond Affection to this Villain, was by him abuſed only to enrich himſelf, and render his Maſter's Government odious to all People; and thus he is liable to be injured who repoſeth too much Confidence in any one Man, and deſpiſeth the good Intentions of others to ſerve him.

I ſhall ſubmit this Relation to your impartial Judgment, and return to the end of *Commany*. Three little Miles below our Fort *Vredenburg*, at the Village or Town of *Mina*, is ſituate the Caſtle of St. *George d'Elmina*, ſo famous throughout the World; it takes its Name from the Town, but why the *Portugueſe* who were its Baptizers, gave it this Name, I cannot determine; for no Gold Mines are found

for

for ſeveral Miles about it; but if I may gueſs, I am apt to think it was, becauſe here they found a great Affluence of Gold from all Parts; which ſeeming juſt as if it came immediately from the Mines, might probably induce them to give it this Name, which it hath ever ſince kept. I cannot pretend to inform you exactly when they began to build the Caſtle, but can only tell you that we took it from them in 1638, and it is indeed juſtly become famous; for to ſpeak but the bare Truth of it, for Beauty and Strength, it hath not its Equal upon the whole Coaſt. It is built ſquare with very high Walls, four good Batteries within and another on the Out-work of the Caſtle; on the Side towards the Land it is adorn'd with two Canals cut in the Rock on which it ſtands, which are always furniſhed with Rain or freſh Water ſufficient for the Uſe of our Garriſon and Ships: Beſides which we have within the Caſtle three very fine Ciſterns, holding ſeveral hundred Tuns, to preſerve Rain-water, ſo that we are in no great danger of wanting that neceſſary Element. Upon the Caſtle are plac'd—— heavy Braſs-Guns; beſides, the lower Battery is fill'd with Iron Pieces, which are daily fir'd by way of Salutation to Ships, and on ſuch like Occaſions. There is room for a Garriſon of above 200 Men in this Caſtle as well as for ſeveral Officers beſides, all which may be ſo conveniently lodg'd that they would have no Reaſon to complain. I ſhall begin the Drawings of the Forts, with this Caſtle, of which I ſend a View of each Side Marked Numb. 1, and 2. but the Drawer running away from his Maſter ſomewhat too ſoon, hath committed ſome ſmall Error, which yet can only be diſcovered by very skilful Obſervers.

Under, or before this Caſtle, is the Town of *Mina*, called by the Natives *Oddena*; it is very long and indifferent broad; The Houſes are built with Rock-Stone, in which it differs from all other Places,

they being uſually only compoſed of Clay, and Wood. About 15 or 16 Years paſt it was very populous, and eight times as ſtrong as at preſent, the Inhabitants being then very terrible to all the Negroes on the Coaſt, and ſuch as could under a good General ſucceed in great Undertakings; but about 15 Years paſt the Small-Pox ſwept away ſo many, and ſince by the *Commanian* Wars, together with the Tyrannical Government of ſome of their Generals, they have been ſo miſerably depopulated and impoveriſhed, that 'tis hardly to be believed how weak it is at preſent; it not being able to furniſh out fifty armed Men without the help of the Servants of the *Europeans*; and there is no Place upon the whole Gold-Coaſt without ſome of the Negroes of *Elmina*, for ſome of them who were Friends to the *Commanians* fled to them, but moſt of them from the Tyranny of their Governors, and our above-mentioned *Akim*, who only kept them as Sheep for Slaughter. When I firſt came upon the Coaſt, I have frequently told five or ſix hundred Canoes which went a fiſhing every Morning; whereas now ſcarce one Hundred appear, and all the People ſo poor, that their miſerable Caſe is very deplorable, eſpecially if we reflect upon their former Condition: So that indeed it is highly neceſſary, that a Governor ſhould quickly be ſet over them; who by mild Uſage would ſoon recall the Deſerters, eſpecially if he were ſo prudent as to baniſh, or at leaſt cramp *Akim*, ſo that he ſhould not be able to go far in-land, where he hath at our Coſt made himſelf ſo many Friends, that he would certainly do more Miſchief. This is what I am of Opinion, would ſucceed well if put in Practice, and I heartily wiſh it for the Good of our Company, and all the poor People of the Village; in which Hope and Expectation I conclude, *&c.*

The End of the Third Letter.

LET-

LETTER. IV.

Containing a Deſcription of Fetu, *and our Fort, together with the Chief Place of Reſidence of the* Engliſh, *and another Fort there ſituated. A Deſcription of* Saboe *and Fort* Naſſaw *there; of* Fantyn, *and the Places poſſeſſed by us and the* Engliſh: *The great Power and perverſe Nature of the* Fantynean *Negroes, by which we as well as the* Engliſh *ſuffer very much.*

SIR,

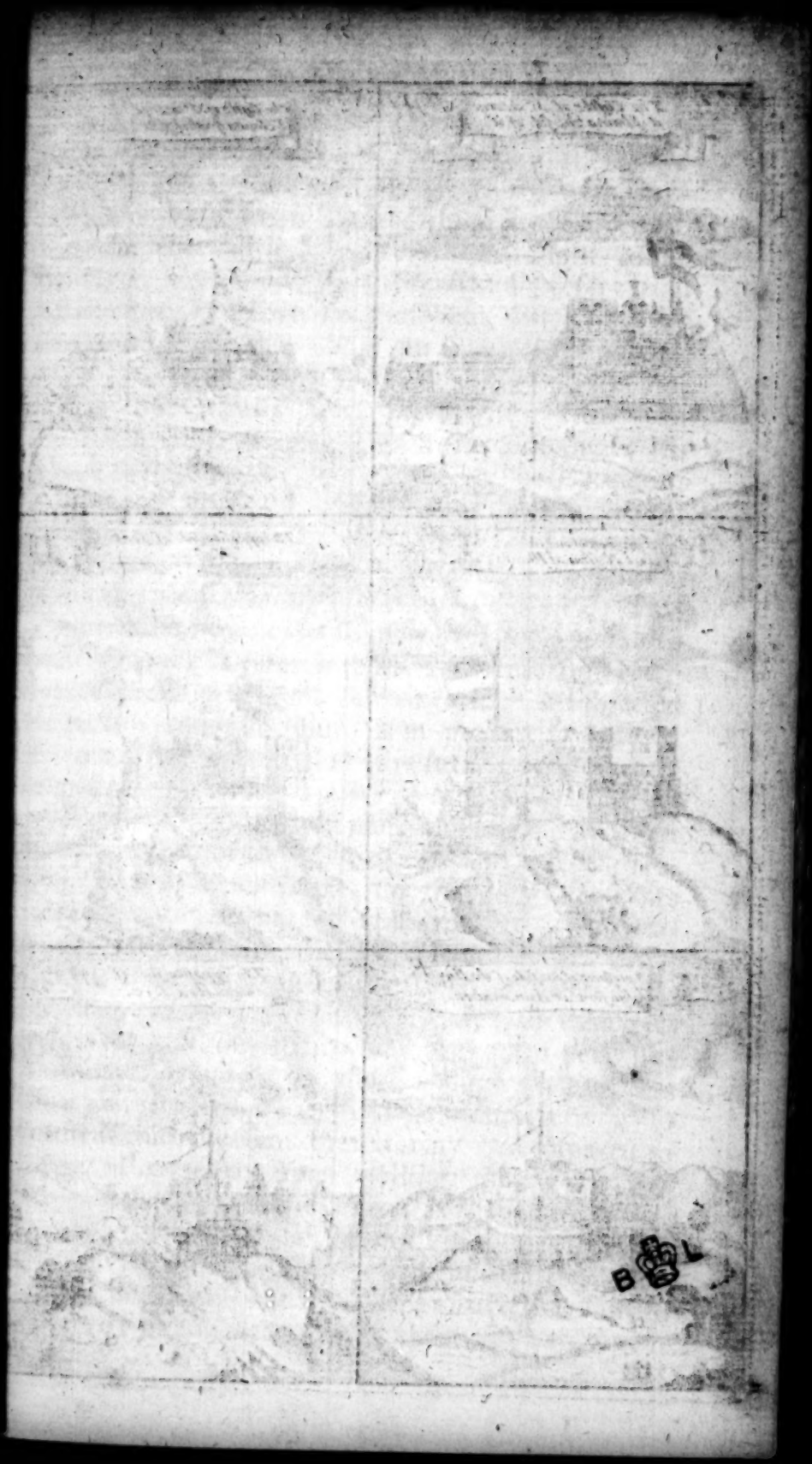
I Wrote to you——my Laſt, which though it met with a tedious Paſſage, I hope did not prove diſagreeable when it reach'd your Hands, and ſince I ſent that I am honoured with yours of the 24th, brought to the Coaſt by a *Zeeland* Interloper. I cannot help obſerving, that, puſh'd on by a very inquiſitive Genius, you not only make uſe of all Opportunities of writing to me, continually urging me to purſue my Deſcription of the Coaſt, but are always putting me in mind of anſwering by the ſame Ship. But, my very good Friend, don't you know that I am forbidden the receiving of any Letters from, or delivery of any to ſuch Ships. I dare ſay you think there is no difference what Ship brings the Letter if it be right delivered: Well, to tell you the Truth, I don't think the difference very great, and provided our Company be not injured, I cannot ſee any Crime in it; wherefore you may be aſſured that I ſhall ſlip no Opportunity, and if you pleaſe to continue the ſame Care, the Opportunities here, and in *Europe*, are ſo frequent, that we may be enabled by the continual interchange of Letters, to be always informed of each others Welfare.

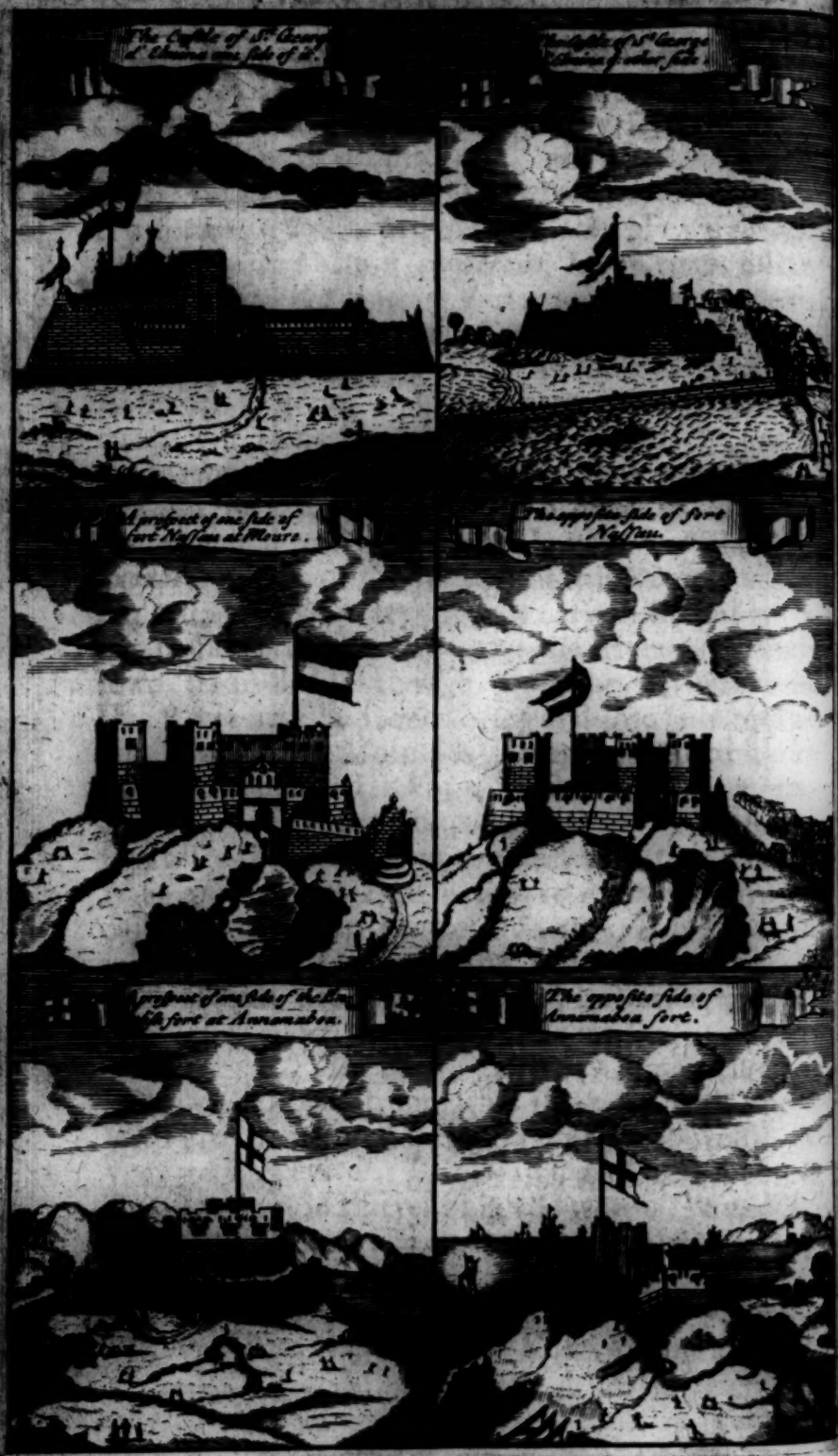
From my former three, which in all probability you have received before now, you found that I am free enough, and conſequently need not be ask'd

twice: But to gratify your Deſire as effectually as I can, I ſhall begin where I broke off my laſt at the Caſtle of *Elmina*, and ſo continue my Deſcription.

Below, or next our Caſtle, and by the Village *Mina*, runs a ſmall River inward towards the Country for about half a Mile, the Water of which according to Monſieur *Focquenbrog*, is ten times ſalter than the ſalteſt Brine or Pickle: Though I have in the Months of *May* and *June* found it as freſh as Rain-water: perhaps becauſe in theſe Months the Rains are ſo great, and the Waters fall off the circumjacent Hills into this River, as ſwiftly, as a Tyde from the Sea, ſo that this Place is very convenient for Water-Mills, the Stream ſo running that it would eaſily turn a Mill. But what Mr. *Focquenbrog* affirms of the ſaltneſs of this River muſt be underſtood in very dry Seaſons: For the Soil hereabouts being very nitrous and the River very ſhallow, 'tis probable enough, that the Sea-Water in this River may be ſooner congeal'd into Salt by the Sun, than in the Main-Sea; which the Inhabitants have alſo obſerved: For they boil this Water into Salt by which they gain conſiderably. This River ſeparates the Country of *Commany* from that of *Fetu*. Near this and in *Fetu* is ſituate upon a high Hill called St. *Jago* our Fortreſs of *Conraadsburg*, which is a beautiful Quadrangular Fort, ſtrengthned as moſt of ours are with four good Batteries, beſides four leſſer which it hath in the Out-Wall that encompaſſes it. In ſhort, here is Cannon enough, and the Fort is ſo ſtrong, that if it were well ſtored with Proviſions, and well garriſon'd, it would do very good Service. The Drawing of it Numb. 3. ſhews you an indifferent high Tower in the middle, which only adorns the Building, but from the Top affords a moſt beautiful Proſpect of the circumjacent Land and Ocean, as well as uſefully ſerves to diſcover Ships ſeven or eight Miles diſtant at Sea.

Before




The Castle of St. Georg
& Chaine on ye East side of it.
The West side of St. George
& Chaine of ye other side.
A prospect of ye East side of
fort Nassau at Moure.
The opposite side of fort
Nassau.
prospect of ye East side of the Dut
ch fort at Annamaboe.
The opposite side of
Annamaboe fort.

Before any Fort was built upon St. *Jago*, that Hill was of great Service; 'twas from thence we chiefly obliged the Caſtle of St. *George* to ſurrender, for our Cannon planted there perfectly commanded the Caſtle; wherefore we ought to be nearly concern'd for the Defence and Preſervation of this Fort and Hill, for theſe once loſt, the Caſtle of St. *George* could not hold out long; and accordingly therefore as much Care is always taken of this as the Caſtle it ſelf, there being always an Enſign left there with a good Garriſon under his Command. St. *Jago* being in *Fetu*, I ſhall here acquaint you that that Land is forty Miles long, and about as broad: It begins, as I have told you above with the Hill St. *Jago*, or the Salt River, and ends below the *Daniſh* Mount, paſſing by *Cabo-cors*. This Country was formerly ſo powerful and populous that it ſtruck Terror into all its Neighbour-Nations, eſpecially that of *Commany* which it ſubjected to its Government. But 'tis at preſent ſo drained by continual Wars, that it is intirely ruin'd, and almoſt owns the *Commanians* its Maſters; the King of *Fetu* nor his Nobles, not daring to ſtir without the permiſſion of the King of *Commany*: The greateſt Cauſe of which is, that in the *Commanian* Wars *Fetu* was divided, part of it adhered to the *Commanians*, and part to our Side, and ſome of each being killed, they ſuffered a double Loſs, and were very much diminiſhed in the laſt Battle; ſo that you may very well conjecture they cannot be very numerous: nor indeed are there enough to give this fine Country its proper Tillage, though it is ſo fruitful and pleaſant that it may be compared to *Ante*. Frequently upon walking through it, before the laſt War, I have ſeen it abound with fine well-built and populous Towns, ſo agreeably enrich'd with vaſt quantities of Corn and Cattle, Palm-Wine, and Oyl, that it was not a little pleaſant to obſerve; but what was moſt charming was, that it

was

was ſo covered with ſmooth ſtreight Paths, and Trees ſtanding ſo thick together from *Elmina* to *Simbe* (a Village about a Mile and half up the *Fetuan* Country) that I have been ſheltered both from Sun and Rain. The beautiful lofty Trees on the Hills and freſh Rivers in this Country do not a little adorn it. In ſhort, this Land very well deſerves its Situation ſo near our chief Place of Reſidence.

The Inhabitants all apply themſelves without any diſtinction to Agriculture; ſome ſow Corn, others preſs Oyl and draw Wine from the Palm-Tree, with both which it is plentifully ſtored. About three Miles on Foot, or two long ones by Sea from this Place, at the Town of *Ooegwa*, or according to others, *Cabocors*, which is a Cape bearing out at Sea, is the *Engliſh* Chief Fort, which next to that of *St. George d'Elmina* is the largeſt and moſt beautiful on the whole Coaſt; within it is well furniſhed with fine and well-built Dwelling-places; before it they have alſo built a high Turret to ſecure the Lives of the People of the Town, in caſe of an Invaſion of Hoſtile *Negroes*. The Fort is ſtrengthened with four very large Batteries, beſides a fifth; on which are planted thirteen Pieces of heavy Cannon; and theſe being pointed at the Water Paſſage, can eaſily prevent any Ships of their Enemies anchoring in that Road: beſides which a great Rock lies juſt before the Fort; ſo that it is impoſſible to ſhoot at it from the Sea.

The worſt of all is, that here is generally but a very weak Garriſon; one part of which, I mean of the Soldiers, conſiſts of ſuch miſerable poor Wretches, that the very ſight of them excites Pity. They look as awkward and wriſled as an old Company of *Spaniards*; the Reaſon of which is partly that they greedily entertain thoſe who quit or deſert our Service; which they will never deliver over to us, out of a miſtaken Mercy, thereby freeing them

them from their deſerved Puniſhment. And though by firm Promiſes and mutual Agreement, we have frequently and interchangeably obliged our ſelves not to countenance or entertain any Deſerters from each other, but on the contrary to ſend them home in Irons, yet they have once more broken the Articles; and notwithſtanding that thoſe who run away from us are chiefly ſottiſh Wretches, yet they are very welcome to them; the *Engliſh* never being better pleaſed than when the Soldier ſpends his Money in Drink, eſpecially in Punch: A Liquor made of Brandy, Water, Lime-Juice and Sugar, which make altogether an unwholeſome Mixture. Some of the Agents make a conſiderable Advantage of ſelling this Liquor by their Emiſſaries underhand; for the Soldier pays double its Value, and thoſe who ſpend but a little Money that way, are ſure to be very well beaten, they taking no care whether the Soldier at Pay-day ſaves Gold enough to buy Victuals, for it is ſufficient if he have but ſpent it in Punch; by which exceſſive tipling and ſorry feeding moſt of the Garriſon look as if they were Hag-ridden. This is a Fault which ſome greedy Agents will not correct, becauſe they would loſe too much by an Alteration.

'Tis very well known that you are a learned Phyſician, but I cannot tell whether you are of Mr. *Bontekoe*'s Opinion, who ventures to ſay, that moſt Men ſhorten their Days by an irregular way of living; but this muſt be candidly interpreted: However, you underſtanding this beſt, I ſhall leave it to you to determine; but if our mentioned Author means ſuch irregular Lives as the *Engliſh* Soldiers live here, I ſhould make no Difficulty to declare for his Doctrine. 'Tis incredible how many are conſumed by this damnable Liquor (pardon the Expreſſion,) which is not only confined to the Soldiery, but ſome of the principal People are ſo bigotted to it, that I really believe for all the time

I was upon the Coaſt, that at leaſt one of their Agents, and Factors innumerable died yearly. So that if the State of Health in *Guinea* be computed by the number of the *Engliſh* which dye here, certainly this Country muſt have a much more unhealthful Name in *England*, than with us; and to tell an *Engliſhman* that their Illneſs proceeds from their Debauches in this Liquor, would ſignifie juſt as much as to inform them that the exceſſive eating of Fleſh (of which they are ſuch great lovers) is very prejudicial to Human Bodies. But enough of this.

Under the *Engliſh* Fort is the before-mentioned Town, which was formerly well-peopled; but this, as well as all the other, has ſuffered very much in the *Commanian* War; beſides that the multiplicity of *Engliſh* Interlopers hath continually ſtript it of its Inhabitants; for when they come hither, they always take ſome of 'em with them to *Fida*, to aſſiſt them in buying of Slaves; after which they liking the place, live there, and ſeldom remember to come home again; ſo that at preſent the Village is half waſted, and the Houſes are in a ruinated Condition.

Behind this Town the *Engliſh* have a round Tower; upon which are planted ſix Pieces of Cannon, and garriſoned I believe with about as many Men. This doth, or ſhou'd ſerve, as they ſay, to keep the *Negroes* of the Town in awe, as well as defend them from all other *Negroes* their Enemies that come from the In-land Country; but, in my Opinion, 'tis a perfect unneceſſary Charge, their Caſtle being ſo high that it will eaſily perform that Office alone. I have herewith ſent you the Sketches of the *Engliſh* chief Fort, and of that upon the *Deen Sthen* or *Daniſh* Mount, No. 4 and 5.

Under the *Engliſh* Fort you may obſerve a Houſe, not unlike a ſmall Fort, with a Flag on it and ſome Cannon; this is inhabited by an *Engliſh Mulatto*, by Name *Edward Barter*, who hath a greater Power

on

on the Coaſt, than all the three *Engliſh* Agents together (in whom the chief Command of the Coaſt is veſted jointly;) who, by Reaſon of their ſhort ſtay here, are ſo little acquainted with the Affairs of this Coaſt, that they ſuffer themſelves to be guided by him, who very well knows how to make his Advantage of them. He is become ſo conſiderable that he can raiſe a large number of armed Men; ſome whereof are his own Slaves, and the reſt Free-Men, that adhere to him: So that his Intereſt is at preſent ſo great that he is very much reſpected, honoured and ſerved by the principal People about him; and whoever deſigns to Trade with the *Engliſh*, muſt ſtand well with him before he can ſucceed. This *Mulatto* pretends to be a Chriſtian; and by his Knowledge of that Religion, which he hath acquired by the Advantage he hath of Reading and Writing, might very well paſs for one; but his Courſe of Life is utterly contradictory: For though he is lawfully married in *England*, he hath above eight Wives, and as many Miſtreſſes. But this the *Engliſh* muſt not take for Diſhoneſt or Irreligious, ſince moſt of their chief Officers or Governours follow the *Mulatto*'s Example pretty cloſe, for I believe that two of the preſent Agents have about ſix.

In the Draught of *Cabocorſe* upon the *Daniſh* Mount (ſo called becauſe the *Danes* poſſeſs'd it before the *Engliſh*) you may obſerve another *Engliſh* Fort; of which they boaſt as much as we do of ours at St. *Jago*; but without the leaſt Reaſon; for it lay four Years more like a deſolate Country Cottage, than a Fortreſs; its ſhattered Walls being mended with Clay, and its Houſe within covered with Reeds, as thoſe of the *Negroes*; and if I were an utter Stranger to the Slovenlineſs of the *Engliſh*, I ſhould admire why they are ſo careleſs of a Place of ſo great an Importance: For if an Enemy becomes Maſter of this Hill, and plants but ſix

Pieces

Pieces of Cannon there, he is conſequentially Maſter of *Cabocorſe* alſo, it lying ſo far at his Mercy that he may from hence level it with the Ground; and yet it continued in this ridiculous Condition all the laſt War, and might eaſily have been taken by twelve Men; and really we cannot help wondering here to ſee the *Engliſh* regard nothing ſo much as enriching themſelves at the Expence of their Maſters.

But at laſt, it ſeems, ſome well-meaning Officer has informed the Gentlemen of the *African* Company in *England*, of the wretched ſtate of this Fortreſs; for in the Year 1699. expreſs Orders came to repair and put it in a poſture of Defence; and ever ſince they have been rebuilding of it, having intirely pulled down the old one. The Agents obliged me with a ſight of the Model; purſuant to which that already finiſhed is built, as the whole is intended; and by this I perceive they do not deſign to take in a large compaſs of Ground: but when finiſhed it will be ſo ſtrong that no Fort on the Coaſt will be compared to it. The Form of it, and the natural Strength of the Hill, which they intend to cut ſteep, ſo that but one Acceſs to it ſhall be left, will render it ſo ſtrong, that if well ſtored with Proviſions, and well garriſoned, it cannot be taken without great Difficulty; which will be yet augmented if we conſider that the Enemies, being unaccuſtomed to the Air, and apprehenſive of the Natives, can hardly beſiege it: They who would have it muſt take it by Surprize; for I dare engage when it is finiſhed the *Engliſh* may ſafely depend on it: But the Building advances ſo ſlowly, that Heaven knows when that will be. But to leave the *Engliſh* to ſhift for themſelves, and to come to our Deſcription of *Saboe*, which begins at the Bottom of this Hill, and ends about half a Mile below *Mouree*, being in its whole Extent along the Shoar hardly two Miles long, and about twice as broad.

From


Fort Cumberland at St Tago.
Cape Cors Castle, the prospect of it on one side.
A prospect of Cape Cors Castle on the opposite side.

From the *Daniſh* Mount 'tis about a little half Mile to *Congo*, where we formerly had a fine Stone-houſe, divided and ſituated upon two Hillocks, where our Flag was planted; of which there is only a ſmall remainder left, ſufficient to prove our Propriety: And indeed we cannot expect any other Advantage by building in this place than to keep out other *Europeans:* for if any of them ſhould ſettle here, they might very much prejudice our Trade at *Mouree.*

Saboe is about equal in Power with *Commany*, and its Inhabitants exactly as great Villains, we being obliged to blame their King, next the *Engliſh*, for the miſcarriage of our Deſign againſt *Commany*. For this ignominious Wretch, under pretence of being Moderator betwixt the *Commanians* and us, abuſed us ſeveral times by dilatory and fraudulent Means; which though we plainly ſaw, yet we were afraid to reſent, leaſt inſtead of a feigned Friend, we ſhould make him our profeſſed Enemy: And for this Reaſon we were obliged not only to paſs by his mean-ſpirited Frauds unobſerved, but ſometimes alſo to make him a Preſent.

The Kingdom of *Saboe* produceth in great abundance, *Corn*, *Jammes*, *Potatoes*, and other *Fruits* of the Earth; with which and Palm-Oil about an hundred *Canoas* are daily laden at *Mouree*, bound for *Axim* and *Acra.*

At *Mouree* about half a Mile below *Congo*, ſtands our Fort *Naſſaw*, built by our ſelves, which was our chief place of Reſidence when the *Portugueſe* had *Elmina*; and really if *Elmina* were not in being, we needed not to be aſhamed to own this for our chief Fort. It is almoſt ſquare, the Front being ſomewhat the broadeſt; it is provided with four Batteries and Eighteen Pieces of Cannon; the Walls are higher than thoſe of any Fort, except *Elmina*, upon the whole Coaſt; the Curtain takes in the two Sea-Batteries, and is ſo ſpacious and conveni-

ent,

ent, that we might eaſily make ſuch a Battery as the *Engliſh* have at *Cabocors*: But its greateſt Ornaments and Conveniences are the four Towers placed at its four Corners. To be ſhort, this Fort is next *Elmina*, our beſt, as you may ſee in the Draughts of it, No. 6, and 7. It was formerly garriſoned by ſeventy or eighty Men; whoſe number at preſent is very much diminiſhed, tho' there are enough ſtill left to defend it againſt the *Negroes*.

The Village *Mouree* lying under it, is not ſo large as *Elmina*, but more populous; the greateſt part of its Inhabitants are Fiſher-men, who go out every Morning four or five Hundred *Canoas* to fiſh, and upon their return are obliged to pay the fifth Fiſh as Toll to our Factor, who governs this Town. This ſort of Toll we yet reſerve at three places beſides, *viz.* at *Axim*, *Chama* and *Elmina*, by reaſon we have conquered theſe places, though I dare not affirm that of *Mouree*. No other *Europeans* have this peculiar Prerogative, nor do any of them exerciſe ſuch a Sovereign Authority over their *Negroe* Subjects as we; which is indeed chiefly their own Fault, and by their means we have alſo loſt ſome of our former Power.

Before I leave *Saboe*, I muſt inform you that its Natives have been longeſt known to our Company, whoſe Directors have ſeen two of their Ambaſſadors at *Amſterdam*, though ſo long ago, that I know nothing of their Reception or their Errand to *Holland*; of both which the preſent King is as ignorant as my ſelf.

I deſigned to have ended this Letter with the *Saboean* Country; but having time enough on my Hands to deſcribe the *Fantynean* Land, I ſhall take this Opportunity to do it. This Country borders on the Weſt of *Sabee*; the Iron Mount half a Mile below *Mouree* being its Extremity: This Hill is about a quarter of a Mile long, and hath on its higheſt Part a charming Walk ſo thickly ſhaded with

with Trees that the Light is obscured at Noon-day. From the Foot of this Hill *Fantyn* extends it self about nine or ten Miles along the Sea-side, being also some Miles broad.

The *English* have a Fort in this Country besides three Lodges, as we have a Fort here also. The first *English* Flag which offers it self to our view in our descent, is at *Ingenisian*, where the intire Garrison consists of *one whole* Englishman, who lies there. Is it possible for him to preserve the Honour of the Flag?

Half a Mile below this, at *Annamabo*, the *English* have a small, but very neat compact Fort. Not to detain you by describing it, I refer you to the Draught, No. 8. and 9. In which you may observe some Ships in the Road, which is always full of *English* Ships. This place would afford a considerable Gold and Slave Trade, if the *English* Interlopers did not carry it very near all, and the *Zeland* Interlopers are sure to make use of what Opportunity the others leave.

The *English* here are so horribly plagued by the *Fantynean Negroes*, that they are sometimes even confined to their Fort, not being permitted to stir out. And if the *Negroes* dislike the Governour of the Fort, they usually send him in a *Canoa* in contempt to *Cabocors*; nor are the *English* able to oppose or prevent it, but are obliged to make their Peace by a Present. The Town *Annamabo* may very well pass for the strongest on the whole Coast, affording as many armed Men as the whole Kingdom of *Saboe* or *Commany*; and yet in proportion but a fifth part of *Fantyn*.

If the *Fantyneans* were not in perpetual Civil Divisions, the circumjacent Countries would soon find their Power by the Irruptions into their Territories. Besides that this Land is so populous, it is very rich in Gold, Slaves, and all sorts of Necessaries of Life; but more especially Corn, which they

ſell in large Quantities to the *Engliſh* Ships. This great Opulency has rendred them ſo arrogant and haughty, that an *European* who would traffick with 'em is obliged to ſtand bare to them.

Here is no King, the Government being in the Hands of a Chief Commander, whom they call their *Braffo*, a Word importing Leader. He is a ſort of Chief Governour, and has the greateſt Power of any in the whole Land, but is ſomewhat cloſely reſtrained by the old Men, who are a ſort of National Councellors, not unlike ſome *European* Parliament, acting perfectly according to their Inclinations, without conſulting the *Braffo*. Beſides theſe every part of *Fantyn* hath alſo its particular Chief, who will ſometimes ſcarce own himſelf ſubject to the *Braffo*, who hath the ineffectual Name only of Supreme Power.

The In-land Inhabitants, beſides Trading, are employed in Tillage and drawing of Palm-Wine. Of which they have a ſort here call'd *Quaker* (which ſignifies the ſame as in *Engliſh*) from its extraordinary exhilarating Qualities, which are experienced by thoſe who take large Draughts of it; 'tis ſold at double the price of the common ſort, and ſo greedily bought up, that there is ſeldom enough for the demand.

The *Negroes* of *Fantyn* drive a very great Trade with all ſorts of Interlopers, and that freely and boldly in the ſight of both Nations, I mean the *Engliſh* and *Dutch*, neither of them daring to hinder it. For if they ſhould attempt it, 'twould ruine them there, we not having the leaſt Power over this Nation. There are, I believe, four Thouſand Fiſhermen in this Country.

But to proceed on our Journey; about half a Mile further, we come to *Adja*, a Village where, as well as formerly at *Annamabo*, we had a Fort, till by Treachery we were forced out of it by the *Engliſh*; who being jointly engarriſoned with our

Men,

Men, treated them in a barbarous and cruel manner. The *English* have planted their Flag upon a *Negroe*'s House here, and their Company hath one Factor here to buy Millet of the *Fantyneans* for their Slave Ships; but he finding greater Profit in trading with the Interlopers, can spare his Masters Ships but a small share.

A little lower, just at the Village, justly called little *Cormantyn*, stands our Fortress *Amsterdam*; the chief Residence of the *English*, till they were driven from thence by Admiral *De Ruyter*, *An.* 1665. This Fort being sufficiently large, is strengthened by three small and a fine large Battery, containing twenty Pieces of Cannon: See the Drawing No. 10 and 11. The Governour set over this Fort is a chief Factor, as that of *Mouree*. A moderate Charge would very much improve this Fortress, but the Commerce of the place not being sufficient to bear the Expence, 'tis better to let it alone. This Village is so small and wretchedly poor, it is not worth our Thoughts. But great *Cormantyn*, a Town which lies a Cannon-shot below our Fort upon a high Hill, is so large and populous, that it very well deserves the Name of Great: All the Inhabitants, besides Merchantile Traders, are Fishermen, amounting to the number of 7 or 800, and sometimes 1000. From this place the Country of *Fantyn* reaches 7 or 8 Miles on the Shore, being all the way repleniſhed with small Villages, very pleasant to observe in passing by in a *Canoa*.

At the end of *Fantyn* the *English* two Years past planted another Flag, and began to build a Fort: whether their Expectations were not satisfied, or they could not agree with the *Negroes* is uncertain; but at present they are endeavouring to remove all the Materials from thence; which the *Negroe* Commander in Chief hath hitherto hindred, and how it will end, Time must discover.

From what I have ſaid you may be informed what places the *Engliſh* and we poſſeſs in *Fantyn*, both of us having an equal power, that is, none at all. For when theſe villanous People are enclined to it, they ſhut up all the Paſſes ſo cloſe, that not one Merchant can poſſibly come from the In-land Country to trade with us; and ſometimes not content with this, they prevent the bringing Proviſions to us, till we have made Peace with them. They have a hank upon us, we having formerly contracted to give them a good Sum of ready Money, beſides 300 Gilders for every one of the Companies Ships, which for the future ſhould bring any Goods hither, in conſideration of their Aid in the taking Fort *Amſterdam*, and other auxiliary Aſſiſtance; but in this Contract it was particularly ſtipulated, that Slave-Ships ſhould be excepted from paying any thing: Notwithſtanding which they are now become ſo unreaſonable, that they will make no difference between Slave-Ships and others, obliging us equally to pay for all; and all our Remonſtrances, that it is contrary to the Treaty, are wholly ineffectual; for if we will live at quiet, we are always obliged to humour them. They alſo extort a good Sum from the *Engliſh* yearly. In ſhort, they treat us both alike. But having ſaid enough for this time, I deſire you'd accept the repeated Aſſurances of my Service, *&c.*

LETTER. V.

Deſcribing the Country of Acron, *and our Fort there:* Agonna, *and the* Engliſh *Fort there; and laſtly, the great Kingdom of* Aquamboe, *and the* Engliſh, Daniſh *and* Dutch *Forts in it; together with ſome remarkable Events in that Country.*

SIR,

MY laſt of the 27—— concluded with *Fantyn*. The yet undeſcribed Remainder of the *Gold Coaſt*, contains the Three following Kingdoms, *viz.*

Acron,

Acron, *Agonna*, and *Aquamboe*: The firſt whereof borders on the *Fantynean Country*; and in the middle of it, at the Village *Apam*, in the Year 1697, we began to build a ſmall Fort, or rather Houſe, now fortified with two Batteries, as the Draught will better inform you, *No.* 12 and 13. To this we have given the Name of *Fort Leydſaambeyd*, i. e. *Patience*, becauſe we met with ſufficient opportunity of exerciſing that Vertue in building of it, by the frequent Oppoſitions of the *Negroes*. Our chief Factor there, by the deadneſs of Trade, and the depraved Nature of the Inhabitants, is ſo perplexed, that he hath enough to do to keep his Temper. I never was ſo deceived in my Expectation as by theſe Natives; they appeared ſo well at firſt, that by my Advice the building of this Fort was very much expedited; but I ſoon enough repented of it. Upon the two Batteries are eight Pieces of Cannon; but its greateſt Strength and Ornament is derived from a fine Turret before it.

The Village which lies under it is very little, and formerly, as well as now, only inhabited by Fiſhermen. But this place, as well as all *Acron*, is very conveniently ſituated for Trade; and if the Natives were more tractable, might in few Years become a populous Town. *Acron*, as I told you, is a Kingdom; but its King under the Protection of his principal Subjects, eſpecially his Nephew and General: This is a moſt pernicious Villain, whoſe Savage Humour occaſioned all the Differences we have had, and the Oppoſition we have met with here. I have ſeveral times diſcourſed with him; and tho' I could not diſcover any Capacity in him that he was a Man of the leaſt Judgment, yet the whole Council turns upon and centers in him. The reſt of the Chiefs are all very good Men, and are not for puſhing on War. The King, who is about ſeventy years of Age, is an extraordinary good-natur'd Man, with whom I have often been

very merry: He is thought to be the richeſt Prince in ready-money on the whole Coaſt (except the King of *Aquamboe*,) and yet I have obſerved him ſo meanly robed, that all he had about him was not worth half a Crown.

The People of *Acron* ſeldom or never enter into War; for having choſen the *Fantyneans* for their Protectors, none dare injure or attack them; by which they have a very good opportunity of tilling their Land in quiet; and they accordingly husband their Time and Ground ſo well, that every Year produceth a plentiful Harveſt; a great part of which Crop they diſpoſe of to other Countries. Harts, Hares, Partridges, Pheaſants, and other Wild-fowl and Quadrupedes are here in great abundance, and very good. About three or four Months paſt, three or four Friends and my ſelf had the Diverſion of taking a Hare in a manner not very common. Behind our Fort, which is built on a Hill, is a Vale about a Mile ſquare, where there were abundance of Hay-cocks; here, about Twi-light, we met a young Hare, that being purſued by my Dog, took refuge in a Haycock; in which, though we made a diligent ſearch, we could not find him, till at laſt burning the Haycock, to our mighty ſurprize, we found the Hare ſitting under the Aſhes of the Hay unhurt, and carried her alive with us to *Elmina*. From this Accident, and the vaſt quantities of Hares, I queſtion not but a good pack of exquiſite Hunters would have very good Sport here.

Acron is divided into *Little* and *Great Acron*. *Little Acron* is that which we have deſcribed: *Great Acron* is further In-land, and its Government is a ſort of Republick, if not Anarchy; and though theſe are two Countries, and have no dependance on each other, yet they live in perfect Amity.

A little below our Fort a Salt River takes its Courſe In-land about a Mile, which abounds both in Fiſh and Fowl, and is conſequently very pleaſant.

About

About a Mile further Eaſtward, in the Country of *Agonna*, is a very high Hill, called *Monte de Diable*, or Devils Mount, to whom it is often preſented by the Seamen, becauſe being very high, they often ſee it at a diſtance long before they can reach it, when the Wind is contrary. This Hill is reported to be inriched with vaſt quantities of Gold, of which it is alſo affirmed, that the *Agonnaſian Negroes*, after violent Showers, gather it to a conſiderable value, the Rain having waſhed it off with the Sand. This Year one Mr. *Baggs* died at *Cabocors*, who was Agent for the *Engliſh*, and entruſted with a more ample Commiſſion than any of his Predeceſſors, or the three together who uſed to govern, had been charged with for ſeveral Years. This extenſive Commiſſion, if we may believe the *Engliſh*, was given him by the Directors of the *African* Company, becauſe he had informed them of, and promiſed to dig Gold, or Gold Oar, out of this Hill, and ſend it over to them. To this purpoſe he brought all manner of neceſſary Inſtruments along with him. But I am certain if he had purſued his Deſign effectually, the *Agonnaſians* would have treated him and his Men as ill as the *Commanians* did us; which, I believe, his Succeſſors will wiſely conſider.

Agonna begins with or about this Hill; and is at preſent, as it hath for ſome time paſt, been governed by a Woman, with as much Courage and Conduct as other Countries are ruled by Men. I don't remember any other Kingdom amongſt the *Negroes*, where the Supremacy deſcends to Females as well as Males. This Governeſs is ſo wiſe, that to keep the Government entirely in her own Hands, ſhe lives unmarried. But that ſhe may not remain a perfect ſtranger to the ſoft Paſſion, ſhe generally buys a brisk jolly Slave, with whom ſhe diverts her ſelf; prohibiting him on forfeiture of his Head, to intrigue with any other Woman: And when the Youth hath loſt his Charms, or her Paſſion palls,

he is exchanged for another; tho' ſome will not allow her ſo honourable as to be ſatisfied with one at a time; if ſhe ſhould, 'twould diſcover a natural Chaſtity and Virtue, ſince, checked by no Religion or Law, ſhe is ſo perfectly Miſtreſs of her Favours, that ſhe may confer them on whom ſhe pleaſeth without Fear or Scandal.

About the middle of *Agonna*, the *Engliſh* built a ſmall Fort in the Year 1694, a Draught whereof ſee *No.* 14 and 15. It is covered with a flat Roof, and hath four Batteries, ſo large that a Man may eaſily leap over them without a Stick; and the Guns are of a proportionable bigneſs, one of them diſcharging a half Pound Ball: In ſhort, it is like our Forts at *Boutry*, *Zaconde*, *Chama* and *Apam*, and theirs at *Dickjeſchoof*, a Fort which wants another to defend it. The adjacent Village, by ſome called *Wimba*, and others *Simpa*, is about as large as other Villages commonly are, chiefly inhabited by Fiſhermen, and very agreeably ſituated amongſt Trees. Trade is here at as low an Ebb as at *Apam*; but when the Wars in the In-land Country come to an end, both Places will be found well ſituate for Commerce.

Agonna ſurpaſſes *Acron* in Largeneſs, Power, and Riches; though in Fertility and Pleaſantneſs, they are very near equal; only the former is adorned with a beautiful large freſh River, which both the *Engliſh* and *Negroes* affirm to abound as plentifully with Oyſters, and other Fiſh, and all ſorts of Apes, as any on the whole Coaſt. Having not obſerved it my ſelf, I am obliged to relate this on report.

We come next to the laſt Country on the Gold Coaſt, namely that of *Aquamboe*; the greateſt part of which is ſituate In-land; but I ſhall deſcribe it among the Kingdoms of the Coaſt, becauſe we have a daily and conſiderable Traffick with them; and their King extends his Power over the *Negroes* of the Coaſt above twenty Miles; and notwithſtanding

theſe

theſe are governed by ſeveral Kings, I ſhall venture to add them to his Territories, he equally exerciſing an unlimited Sovereignty over them and his own Subjects. His Arbitrary Deſpotick Power occaſions the Proverbial ſaying, That there are only two ſorts of Men in *Aquamboe*, of which the King and his Friends are one, and their Slaves the other; ſo that he wants no other Attendants than thoſe of his own Houſe.

The *Aquamboe Negroes* are very haughty, arrogant and War-like; their Power is alſo very terrible to all their Neighbouring Countries, except *Akim:* The Nations under their Power, are miſerably tormented with the daily Plundering, or rather robbing Viſits, the *Aquamboean* Soldiers make them, they not daring to oppoſe 'em in the leaſt, for fear the King, who never fails ſeverely to revenge his Soldiers Quarrels, ſhould hear of it. Some time paſt the *Aquamboean* Government was adminiſtred by two, *viz.* the old and young King, though the latter is excluded on pretence of his Minority, by his Father's Brother, aſſiſted by his own Mother; ſo that the Uncle reigned in conjunction with his Father. This double Hierarchy was found extremely prejudicial to the Subjects, who were ſure to ſuffer from the one as well as the other Tyrant; till the Year 1699. when the old King dying, the young one eſtabliſhed himſelf ſolely on the Throne, utterly excluding the other, and reigning at preſent. The old King was a Man of a wicked, abject Temper, and an inveterate Enemy to the *Europeans*, and though he received from the *Engliſh*, *Danes*, and us, an Ounce of Gold, in recognition of the liberty given us by his Predeceſſors to build in his Dominions; yet he horridly plagued us, and that in ſo unreaſonable a manner, that if he did but fancy any of us had injured him, he was ſure to oblige us all three to Satisfaction, by ſhutting up the Paſſes ſo cloſely, that not ſo much

much as a ſingle Merchant could get to us: So that 'tis not to be doubted but his Death hath, and will contribute to the Advancement of the *European* Trade here; the preſent King being a more intelligent and rational *Negroe*, as well as a Friend to the *Europeans*, eſpecially the *Hollanders*; which plainly appeared in his dangerous Illneſs, that his Country Phyſicians could not cure; for then he confidently entruſted himſelf in our Hands, coming in Perſon to our Fort with a few of his Attendants, and reſided there for ſome time, being roughly enough handled by our Barber, but luckily almoſt cured: His Diſtemper being of that Nature, that he cannot expect to be intirely freed from its Effects; and he is accordingly at preſent not only incapable of procreating Children, but of the enjoyment of any of his Wives; of which he hath a large number.

Exceſſive Venery in his Youth occaſioned his Indiſpoſition; his Wives who endeavoured to reſtrain him, he rewarded with broken Heads, tho' he hath too late ſufficiently repented of it: And 'tis indeed Pity, for he is a clean well-ſhaped *Negroe*, and in the flower of his Age.

In the time of the old King we were very deſirous to build a Fort, and accordingly begun it at the Village *Ponni*, at the end of the Gold Coaſt. But when our Ship with building Materials arrived at *Acra*, being informed that *Ado* was gone with his Army againſt the Enemies, for fear the old King ſhould too much impoſe on us we deſiſted; in which we were very fortunate, by reaſon we ſhould only have put our ſelves to unneceſſary Expence; for at this time we find the Trade not ſo conſiderable as was pretended; and that a Lodge with a Man or two are ſufficient: Wherefore without a very great Alteration of the Poſture of Affairs, I don't believe that a Fort will ever be built there.

I have

I have before hinted to you, that we, as well as the *Engliſh* and *Danes*, have a Fort at *Acra*; all which three may be reckoned amongſt the beſt Forts on the Coaſt. Steering our Courſe Eaſtwards, the firſt we meet with in our way is that of the *Engliſh*; which is a well-built ſquare Fort, with four Batteries; its Walls high and thick, eſpecially on that ſide towards us ſomewhat thicker than ordinary; 'tis furniſhed with twenty five Pieces; the greateſt part of which are ſo ſmall and ſlight, that if they ſhould be atacked, they would do very well to exchange them for twelve good heavy Guns: Its ſituation you may better obſerve from the Draughts, No. 16 and 17. This, like all the *Engliſh* Forts, is very meanly garriſoned, as if it were ſufficient to build Forts, furniſh them with Cannon and neceſſary Proviſions, without Men: In which the *Engliſh* are every where deficient; and it were well if others did not too cloſely follow their Example. But of that no more at preſent, not doubting but thoſe whom it concerns will in time amend that Fault.

Within Cannon-ſhot below this, lies our Fort *Creveceur*; how proper it is for the Reſidence of a chief Governour the Trade thereabouts will decide. This Fort ſurpaſſes the *Engliſh* in largeneſs and good Guns, though about equal in ſtrength, except only that our Walls are thinner than theirs, and conſequently cannot endure ſo great a Shock: And indeed 'tis to be wiſhed that we may live in Peace with that Nation; for if it ſhould happen otherwiſe, both have here a convenient opportunity of continually exchanging very rough and warm Salutations. The Draught of this Fort you will find No. 18 and 19.

Exactly a Cannon-ſhot below ours ſtands the *Daniſh* Fort *Chriſtiaansburg*; the only one they have on this Coaſt, which was taken from them by the *Negroes*, *Anno* 1693. when they intirely ſtript it

and

and kept it for ſome time. This Misfortune of the *Danes* was occaſioned by the Death of ſeveral of their Garriſon; and though we could not but bemoan their hard Fate, yet it was really diverting to obſerve, what work the *Negroes* made with the Fortreſs: Their Commander *Aſſammeni* dreſſed himſelf in the *Daniſh* Governour's Habit, and cauſed himſelf to be complemented by that Name; in acting which Part he occaſioned ſeveral very comical Scenes; he thundred at all the *Engliſh* and *Zealandiſh* Interlopers by way of Salute with his Cannon, as if there would never be an end of the Powder, and remained in Poſſeſſion of the Fort till two *Daniſh* Ships arrived on the Coaſt; when, by means of a very conſiderable Preſent to the King of *Aquamboe*, but more eſpecially by our Interceſſion, it was re-delivered to them. Which Service they afterwards as baſely as ungratefully rewarded; but they were no great Gainers by it; for to garriſon their Fort, they were obliged to leave their Ships ſo poorly manned, that they became a Prey to the Pirates in the ſight of *Guinea*.

This Fort would be too ſtrong for the united Force of the *Engliſh* Fort and ours. It is a ſquare Building, ſtrengthned with four Batteries, and to the beſt of my Memory twenty Guns. It appears very beautiful, and looks as if it were but one continued Battery; as it is really in Effect; for the Roof being intirely flat, the Cannon may conveniently be planted on all Parts of it. The Draughts are worthy your curious Peruſal, No. 20 and 21. and I doubt not but will pleaſe you. Thus I have ſent you all the Draughts of the whole Coaſt from *Elmina* to *Acra*; and when another Drawer comes hither, you may expect thoſe Weſt of *Elmina*, which will make up the ſame number of eleven: I have taken care you ſhould have two Views, *viz.* Eaſt and Weſt, though I won't promiſe as not having a Compaſs with us, that they are not ſometimes

times two or three Points varied; but that I leave the skilful to correct.

'Tis now time to proceed to the more In-land part of *Aquamboe*. Though the *Engliſh*, *Danes* and we have Forts here, yet our Authority is very ſmall, and confined within our own Walls: So that the Forts only ſerve to defend our ſelves; for if we ſhould make any Attempts on the *Negroes*, they would certainly end in our Deſtruction.

Each Fort hath its adjacent *Village*, diſtinguiſhed by its particular Name, though the general one is *Acra*; the Name of this Country, which was formerly a Kingdom, whoſe Inhabitants were conquered by the *Aquamboeans*, and driven to a place called *Little Popo*, which at preſent contains the remainder of the great Kingdom of *Acra*.

It might be reaſonably conjectured, that the three ſeveral Companies trading here, might be apt ſo to claſh with one another, that it might be fatal to the whole Commerce: But Experience proves the contrary; for here is ſuch great plenty of Gold and Slaves, that no one is in danger of wanting its ſhare; and each is ſtocked with Commodities, which the other hath not, which very often tends to the promotion of Trade.

At this place alone ſometimes more Gold is received, than on the whole Coaſt beſides; and its Traffick would be yet enlarged, if the *Negroes* of *Aquamboe* and *Akim* could agree, as they generally are at difference; the latter pretending a Feudal Right over the former, and ſubſequent thereto demanding an Annual Tribute of them; which the *Aquamboeans* will by no means ſubmit to, as knowing very well that a Conceſſion of that Nature may in time coſt them their whole Country. But the King is ſubtle enough to know how by fair Words and Preſents to ſow Diſſentions betwixt the governing Men of *Akim*, and thereby preſerve his Dominions in Peace and a proſperous Trade.

Having

Having formerly hinted the Extent of this Country; I ſhall now add, that the King and his Nobles, or rather Favourites, are ſo very rich in Gold and Slaves, that I am of Opinion this Country ſingly poſſeſſeth greater Treaſures, than all thoſe we have hitherto deſcribed taken together: The chief Employments of the Inhabitants are Merchandiſe, Agriculture and War; to which laſt they are particularly addicted.

Though the Soil is ſufficiently Fertile, yet they commonly fall ſhort of Proviſions towards the latter end of the Year, and accordingly are obliged to fetch them from other places.

They don't trouble themſelves with Fiſhing, nor with the Boiling of Salt, though this Country affords a vaſt plenty of it; that they leave to the Coaſt *Negroes*, who are either born here, or come from other places hither to live, and are very numerous and ſerve to people ſeveral fine Towns: Theſe not content with Fiſhing and the preparation of Salt, drive as conſiderable Trade with Foreign Ships as thoſe of *Axim* and *Fantyn*. The number of Slaves ſold here at leaſt equals what are diſpoſed of on the whole Coaſt (*Annamabo* not excepted;) this Country being continually in War, with ſome of the circumjacent Nations, who are very populous, and from whom they take a vaſt number of Priſoners; moſt of which they ſell to the *Europeans*.

If I have before talk'd of *Negroes* who followed the Wars, you muſt not from thence infer that they make that their whole Employment: No, it is but one part, I aſſure you; and all the *Negroes* in general are Soldiers as long as the War continues, if at leaſt they are but able to buy Arms, or their Maſters beſtow any on them; and the War ended, each Man applies himſelf to the Exerciſe of his particular Calling But if there happens to be any of ſuch a turbulent Nature, that they cannot live out of the Camp, they go to ſerve in the Neighbouring Wars;

Wars; and theſe are in a ſtricter Sence called Soldiers. Amongſt the Fiſhermen there are very few Soldiers; for they living upon the Shoar and under our Protection, are not frequently attack'd by Enemies; and therefore are ſeldom furniſhed with Arms.

Having run through the whole Gold Coaſt; I ſhall now, Sir, allow you time to entertain your ſelf with its Deſcription, deſigning in my next to inform you of the In-land Countries whence the Gold is brought to the Coaſt, as far as they have fallen under my Cognizance: In the mean time, I hope, what I have already done hath afforded you at leaſt ſome Satisfaction; in which Expectation I remain, Sir, Yours, &c.

LETTER. VI.

Treating of the Countries where the Gold is digged; the cruel Wars and utter Deſtruction of ſome of them. The Negroes *manner of ſearching for Gold. The ſeveral ſorts of Gold. How falſe Gold is bought, and how detected. Of Gold Weights: And, laſtly, a Reflection concerning the Digging of Gold; that it is feaſible to be done more ſucceſsfully, and to a better Advantage by the* Europeans.

SIR,

BE pleaſed to accept this as a Performance of my Promiſe to deſcribe thoſe Countries from whence the Gold is brought: To which I ſhall add, the manner how Gold is found or digged; the ſeveral ſpecies of it, and the Weights it is weighed by: An account of the falſe Gold, and whatever elſe falls under that Head.

The firſt Country which produceth Gold is *Dinkira*, ſituate ſo far In-land that our Servants are commonly five Days in going from *Elmina* to it, and from *Axim* it is above ten Days Journey; not ſo much on account of its real diſtance from either place, as becauſe of the badneſs of the Roads, to a degree

degree which frequently obliges them to go double the compaſs of Ground, that would otherwiſe be neceſſary; and that the *Negroes* either cannot or will not help.

This Country, formerly reſtrained to a ſmall compaſs of Land, and containing but an inconſiderable number of Inhabitants, is, by their Valour, ſo improved in Power, that they are reſpected and honoured by all their Neighbouring Nations; all which they have taught to fear them, except *Aſiante* and *Akim*, who are yet ſtronger than they.

They are poſſeſſed of vaſt Treaſures of Gold, beſides what their own Mines ſupply them with; either by Plunder from others, or their own Commerce; in which they are abundantly more expert than any other *Negroes*: Beſides which they have three Countries in ſubjection to them; each of which produces ſome, though not ſo much Gold, *viz. Waſſa*, *Encaſſe* and *Juffer*; each of theſe borders upon one another, and the laſt upon *Commany*. The Gold of theſe Countries, their own, and what they brought from other parts, ſatisfied the demand of the whole Coaſt from *Axim* to *Zaconde*, about three Years paſt, during the *Commanian* Wars: But ſince our Peace with the *Commanians*, the Roads being free and open to the Merchants, the diſtance of ſeveral places from them, makes them not travel farther at preſent than to *Chama*, *Commany*, *Elmina* and *Cabocors*: Wherefore the higher Coaſt is not extraordinarily ſupplied with Gold; for though there are ſome Countries betwixt *Dinkira* and them which have Gold Mines; to inſtance, in *Eguira* and *Adom*, beſides *Abocroe* and *Ancober*, which alſo have a ſmall ſhare; yet all added together, will not amount to a quantity ſufficient to ſupply all the upper Forts. In the Year 1694. I heard the *Brandenburghers* complain, that they could not receive two Marks of Gold in a whole Months time; nor did we fare much better in our Forts, Trade being extremely dull at that time.

The

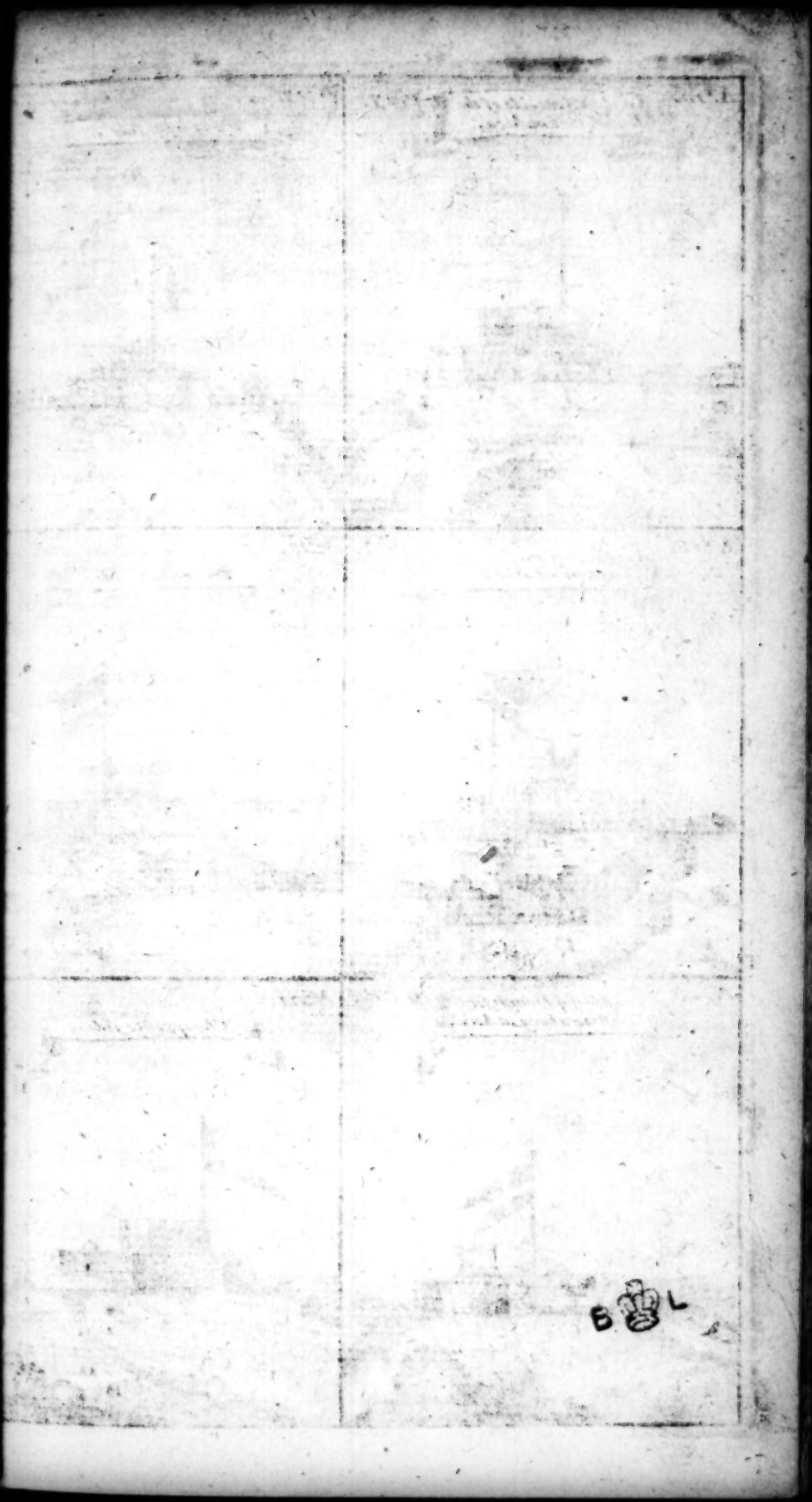
The Gold which is brought us by the *Dinkirans* is very pure, except only that 'tis too much mixed with *Fetiche's*, which are a ſort of artificial Gold compoſed of ſeveral Ingredients; among which ſome of them are very odly ſhaped; Theſe *Fetiche's* they caſt (in Moulds made of a ſort of black and very heavy Earth) into what Form they pleaſe; and this artificial Gold is frequently mixed with a third part, and ſometimes with half Silver and Copper, and conſequently leſs worth, and yet we are peſtered with it on all parts of the Coaſt; and if we refuſe to receive it, ſome *Negroes* are ſo unreaſonable that they will undeniably take back all their pure Gold: So that we are obliged ſometimes to ſuffer them to ſhuffle in ſome of it. There are alſo *Fetiche's* caſt of unalloyed Mountain Gold; which very ſeldom come to our Hands, becauſe they keep them to adorn themſelves: So that if ever we meet with them, thoſe who part with them are obliged to it by Neceſſity, or they are filled with the mentioned black heavy Earth; with which the Unskilful are liable to be baſely cheated, receiving inſtead of Gold frequently half the weight in this ſort of Earth.

By what hath been ſaid, you may imagine how Rich and Potent the Kingdom of *Dinkira* was. But a few Months paſt it was ſo entirely deſtroy'd, that it lies at preſent deſolate and waſte. Certainly it cannot be unpleaſant to inform you how ſuch a fatal and ſudden Deſtruction fell upon this ſo potent a Land, as well as whence their Ruin proceeded; which I am obliged to take from the report of ſome of the *Negroes*; and the Event hath given me ſufficient reaſon to believe they told Truth.

Dinkira, elevated by its great Riches and Power, became ſo arrogant, that it looked on all other *Negroes* with a contemptible Eye, eſteeming them no more than its Slaves; which rendred it the Object of their common hatred, each impatiently wiſhing

its downfal; tho' no Nation was ſo hardy as to attack it, till the King of *Aſiante*, injured and affronted by its Governour, adventured to revenge himſelf on this Nation in a ſignal manner.

The occaſion of which was this *Boſiante*, the King of *Dinkira*, a young Prince, whoſe Valour was become the Admiration of all the *Negroes* of the Coaſt, ſent ſome of his Wives to complement *Zay*, the King of *Aſiante*; who not only received and entertained them very civilly, but ſent them back, charged with ſeveral very conſiderable Preſents, to expreſs his obliging Reſentment of the grateful Embaſſy: And being reſolved to return his Obligation, he ſome time after ſent ſome of his Wives to complement the King of *Dinkira*, and aſſure him of the great Eſteem he had for his Perſon. Theſe Ambaſſadreſſes were not leſs ſplendidly treated at *Dinkira*, being alſo loaded with Preſents; but the King caſt a wanton Eye upon one of them; and hurried on by exorbitant Luſt, gratified his brutal deſire: After ſatiating of which, he ſuffer'd her together with the reſt to return to their Country and their injured Husband, who was informed of this Affront: But he took care to make the King of *Dinkira* ſenſible, that he would not reſt till he had waſhed away the Scandal in his injurious Blood. After he was made ſenſible of the King of *Aſiante*'s reſolution, knowing very well who he had to deal with, he heartily wiſhed he had not been guilty of the Crime; but ſince it was done, he offered him ſeveral hundred Marks of Gold to put up the Injury. The inraged Prince, deaf to all ſuch Offers, prepar'd himſelf for a vigorous War, by raiſing a ſtrong Army, in order to make a deſcent on *Dinkira*: And not being ſufficiently ſtored with Gunpowder, he bought up great quantities on the Coaſt. The *Dinkirans* being fooliſh enough to aſſiſt him themſelves, ſuffered his Subjects to paſs with it uninterrupted through their Country, notwithſtanding they knew very




A prospect of one side of the Danish fort at Acra.
The opposite side.
A prospect of one side of fort Crevecoeur at Acra.
The opposite side.
One side of ye Danish fort Christiansbury at Acra
The opposite side.

very well it was only deſigned for their Deſtruction. Whilſt he was making theſe Preparations, the King of *Dinkira* died; which might encourage a belief that the impending Cloud of War would blow over. Whether the Governours of *Dinkira* were too haughty to implore a Peace of the injured *Zay*, or he inſtigated by the Enemies of that Country, is uncertain: But he ſtill immoveably perſiſted in his purpoſe of utterly extirpating the *Dinkirans*. And about the beginning of this Year, being compleatly ready, he came with a terrible Army into the Field; and engaging the *Dinkirans*, who expected him, he beat them; but fighting them a ſecond time, he entirely defeated them. The *Negroes* report, that in theſe two Battles above a hundred thouſand Men were killed: Of the *Negroes* of *Akim* only, who came to the aſſiſtance of the *Dinkirans*, there were about 30000 killed; beſides that a great *Caboceer* of *Akim*, with all his Men, were cut off. What think you, Sir? theſe are other ſorts of Battles than are uſually fought betwixt the Kings here; who if they ſhould oblige all their Subjects, even the lame decrepit and blind to come into the Field, could not raiſe ſuch a number. The Plunder after this Victory took up the *Aſiantines* fifteen days time, (as is ſaid, but perhaps largely enough; that *Zay*'s Booty alone amounting to ſeveral thouſand Marks of Gold, as is affirmed by one of our *European* Officers, who was ſent on ſome Embaſſy to *Zay*, and ſays, he had ſeveral times ſeen the Treaſure. This Meſſenger of ours, who is now in the *Aſiantean* Camp, hath Orders to take an exact Account of what he hears and ſees there: of which I wiſh I had a Tranſcript, which I doubt not would furniſh ſome extraordinary Matter: But to defer this to another time. Thus you ſee the towring Pride of *Dinkira* in Aſhes, they being forced to fly before thoſe, whom they not long before thought no better than their Slaves, and themſelves being now ſold for

Slaves. We have not yet received the Particulars of this whole Affair; but this Account of it coming to hand, I thought fit to impart it to you.

Next *Dinkira* we come in order to the Deſcription of *Acanny*, whoſe Inhabitants, long before the *Dinkirans*, were famed for great Traders; and brought the Gold of *Aſiante* and *Akim*, together with ſome of their own, hither to Market: And that which they vended was always ſo pure and fine, that to this day the beſt Gold is called by the *Negroes*, *Acanni Sica*, or *Acanny Gold*. They uſually came in Company with the Inhabitants of *Cabeſterra* (a Country between them and *Saboe*) with their Goods, to *Elmina*, *Cabocors*, *Mouree*, *Annamabo*, *Cormantim*, and as far as the *Engliſh* Village *Simpa*. Their Gold was never mixt with *Fetiches*, like that of *Dinkira*, and therefore much more valuable; but they were very troubleſome to deal withal, though not ſo peeviſh and poſitive as thoſe of *Dinkira*, and always obliged us to comply with their own Humour: But for three Years paſt we have not much reaſon to complain of them, they not having traded for much: For they, on what account I am ignorant, falling out with the *Dinkirans*, were ſo beaten that all their governing Men, and no ſmall number of the Inferiour People were killed and taken Priſoners; to redeem which out of Slavery, they were obliged to ſtrip themſelves of all they were poſſeſſed of in the World; by which means they were reduced to the utmoſt Poverty and Inability to defend themſelves: But the *Dinkirans* themſelves being now ruined, as well as they, and having declared for the King of *Aſiante*, perhaps theſe may recover ſome of their ancient Luſtre.

Akim is the next in our way, which furniſhes as large Quantities of Gold as any Land that I know; and that alſo the moſt valuable and pure of any that is carried from this Coaſt: it is eaſily diſtinguiſhed by its deep colour. *Acra* at preſent carries away

the

the greateſt part of this Metal from hence; and from the *Acrians* alſo we have it very good and pure, without *Fetiche's* or *Kakeraas*. Having ſeveral times heard that *Akim* was an extraordinary large Country, I once took the opportunity of asking ſome of the *Akimeſe* how many Days Journey their Country was; they replied, that very few Natives knew how far it extended In-land towards the *Barbary*-Coaſt; which according to what they told me, was incredible. This Country, for as far as it is known to us, was formerly under a Monarchical Government; but the preſent Succeſſor being yet but young, and betraying but too palpable Signs of a cruel Nature, hath not been able to make himſelf Maſter of the whole Land, but is obliged to be content with a part: For the governing Men of the Kingdom fearing he will prove a great Tyrant, to reſtrain him, have taken a part of the Adminiſtration into their Hands: So that it is a ſort of Commonwealth; which proves very well for *Acanny* and *Aquamboe*; for if the Government became Monarchical, no Diviſions would ariſe amongſt them, and they would be at leiſure to prey on their Neighbours.

We have always eſteemed the three mentioned Countries the richeſt in Gold; but that there certainly are ſeveral more is undeniable. *Aſiante* is a convincing Proof of this, which being but lately known to us, we find to afford more Gold than *Dinkira*; alſo *Ananſe*, a Country ſituate betwixt *Aſiante* and *Dinkira*; as there are undoubtedly many more, with which we are yet utterly unacquainted.

Awine muſt not here be forgotten. I take it to be the very firſt on the Gold Coaſt, and to lie far above *Axim*. From the Inhabitants of this Country, we formerly uſed to receive large Quantities of fine and pure Gold; and they being the civilleſt and faireſt Dealers of all the *Negroes*, we traded with them with a great deal of Pleaſure; but the

Dinkirans, who would lord it over all their Neighbouring Nations, ſubdued this; ſince which time we have not received much Gold of them. In the Conqueſt of this Land, the *Dinkirans* made a brave and obſtinate reſiſtance, and had no doubt been ſubdued themſelves, if the Natives of *Awine* could have been unanimous; for the *Dinkirans* in one Battle with a Governour of theirs loſt above two Thouſand Men, and left the mentioned Governour ſuch an abſolute Victory, that there was not a ſingle Perſon left to carry the News to *Dinkira*, they being all killed with poyſoned Arrows; which the *Awineſe* know very well how to uſe. Upon this defeat the *Dinkirans* got together a larger Army; which the Victorious *Awineſe* underſtanding, ſent to his Country-men for farther Aſſiſtance; inſtead of which he met with nothing but Deriſion, they accuſing him of Cowardice; and replying, that he was able to beat the *Dinkirans*; but if he was beaten, then it was their turn to come and fight them Man by Man. Thus fighting one againſt one, they loſt their Country and themſelves intirely, almoſt in the ſame manner that the *Chineſe* were conquered by the *Tartars*; whereas if they would have united, they might eaſily have beaten the *Dinkirans*.

From what I have ſaid you may collect, that the Gold is brought to us on the Coaſt from In-land Countries; and from the little that hath been hinted, you may alſo imagine how they are ſituated. I cannot inform you better, becauſe the *Negroes* cannot give any certain account of them, nor do any of our People go ſo far: Wherefore I muſt beg of you, my good Friend, to be contented, and turn your Eyes to what I ſhall preſent you concerning the Gold it ſelf.

There is no ſmall number of Men in *Europe* who believe that the Gold Mines are in our Power; that we, like the *Spaniards* in the *Weſt-Indies*, have no more to do but to work them by our Slaves: Though

you

you perfectly know we have no manner of acceſs to theſe Treaſures; nor do I believe that any of our People have ever ſeen one of them: Which you will eaſily credit, when you are informed that the *Negroes* eſteem them Sacred, and conſequently take all poſſible care to keep us from them. But to come nearer the Subject: This illuſtrious Metal is generally found in three ſorts of places: Firſt, the beſt is found in or betwixt particular Hills; and the *Negroes* apprehending where the Gold is, dig Pits, and ſeparate it from the Earth which comes out with it.

The ſecond place is in, at, and about ſome Rivers and Water-falls; whoſe violence waſheth down great Quantities of Earth, which carry the Gold with it.

The third is on the Sea-ſhore; where (as at *Elmina* and *Axim*) there are little Branches or Rivulets into which the Gold is driven from mountainous Places, as well as to the Rivers; and after violent Showers of Rain in the Night, next Morning theſe Places are ſure to be viſited by hundreds of *Negroe*-Women naked, except a Cloth wrapped about them to hide what Modeſty obligeth. Each of theſe Women is furniſhed with large and ſmall Troughs or Trays, which they firſt fill full of Earth and Sand, which they waſh with repeated freſh Water, till they have cleanſed it from all its Earth; and if there be any Gold, its ponderoſity forces it to the bottom of the Trough; which if they find, it is thrown into the ſmall Tray, and ſo they go to waſhing it again: which Operation generally holds them till Noon: Some of them not getting above the value of Six-pence; ſome of them find pieces of ſix or ſeven Shillings, though not frequently; and often they intirely loſe their labour. Thus the digging of Pits, the gathering it, at or about the Rivers, and this laſt mentioned manner, are all the ways they know to come at Gold.

The Gold thus digged or found, is of two ſorts; one is called Duſt-Gold, or Gold-Duſt, which is almoſt as fine as Flower, and is the beſt, bearing alſo the greateſt Price in *Europe*: The other ſort is in pieces of different ſizes; ſome being hardly the weight of a Farthing, others weighing as heavy as twenty or thirty Guineas; though of the laſt ſort not many occur. The *Negroes* indeed tell us, that in the Country Pieces as heavy as one or two hundred Guineas, are found. Theſe Lumps or Pieces are called Mountain-Gold; which being melted, touch better than Duſt-Gold; but the multitude of ſmall Stones which always adhere to 'em, occaſion a great loſs in the melting; for which reaſon Gold-Duſt is moſt eſteemed. Thus much of the good and pure Gold; and now to touch upon the falſe. The firſt ſort is that mixed with Silver or Copper, and caſt into *Fetiches*, of which I have before hinted: Theſe *Fetiches* are cut into ſmall Bits by the *Negroes*, about the worth of one, two or three Farthings. 'Tis a common Proverb, *That you cannot buy much Gold for a Farthing*, yet even with that value in Gold you may here go to Market and buy Bread or Fruit for your Neceſſities. The *Negroe* Women know the exact value of theſe Bits ſo well at ſight, that they never are miſtaken; and accordingly they tell them to each other without weighing, as we do coined Money. They are here called *Kakeraas*, the Word expreſſing ſomething of very little value; and the Gold it ſelf is indeed very little worth: For we cannot ſell it in *Europe* for above forty Shillings the Ounce; and yet it paſſes currant all over the Coaſt; and our Garriſons are paid their ſubſiſtence Money in it. And for this they may buy all ſorts of Edibles of the *Negroes*; who mixing it with other Gold, bring it to us again; and as ſoon as received, the Clerks are ordered to pick it out of the other with which it is mixed; ſo that this Stuff ſeems to paſs backward and forward without

without the leaſt diminution, notwithſtanding large quantities of it are annually ſent to *Europe* by the *French* and *Portugueze*, beſides what we our ſelves ſpend: But the *Negroes* making them faſter than we export them, they are like to continue long enough.

The *Negroes* are very ſubtle Artiſts in the ſophiſticating of Gold: They can ſo neatly falſifie and counterfeit the Gold Duſt and the Mountain Gold, that ſeveral unexperienc'd Traders are frequently cheated, and by bought Experience are taught how to know Gold. Some Pieces are caſt by them ſo artificially, that quite round for the thickneſs of a Knife they are very fine Gold, and the vacancy filled up with Copper, or perhaps Iron. This is a new invented Cheat of theirs; but the common falſe Mountain Gold is a mixture of Silver, Copper and a proportion of Gold, extreme high coloured, which very much facilitates the Cheat: For being obliged to receive one or two Pounds at a time, wherein the Pieces happen to be very numerous, we cannot touch every one, and it looking ſo well, cauſeth it to paſs unſuſpected. Another ſort of falſe Gold is alſo frequent amongſt them, which is nothing elſe than a certain Powder of Coral, which they caſt and tinge ſo artificially, that it is impoſſible to diſtinguiſh it by any other difference than that of the weight. Of this Powder they alſo make Gold Duſt; but chiefly of the Filings of Copper, to which they give a very good Tincture; though all the falſe tinged Gold in a Month or two entirely loſes its Luſtre; and then we begin to find that it is falſe: in which we are happier than in thoſe Pieces covered over with Gold; for they remain as we receive them, without any alteration, and conſequently that Cheat is the moſt dangerous.

If you are deſirous to know how 'tis poſſible to avoid the reception of falſe Gold, eſpecially if offered

fered at Night or Morning. The Methods we take are, firſt, if it is in large Pieces, to cut them clear through with a Knife, which immediately diſcovers what it is: If the Piece be ſmall, like Mountain Gold, lay them upon a Stone, and beat them with a Hammer; and if made of Coral, they will crumble into ſmall parts; but ſuppoſing it ſtand beating, you may afterwards try them with your Knife: But in the ſmalleſt Bits and Duſt Gold, this Method is not practicable, though we have a tolerable way of diſtinguiſhing the coarſe from the fine; which is done by putting it into a Copper Baſon, and winnowing it with the Fingers, and blowing it very ſtrongly; by which means the falſe Gold will fly away, and the true fall into, and continue in the Baſon: Upon repeating this Tryal three or four times, the falſe is eaſily ſeparated from the good.

It affords us matter of Diverſion to obſerve, that moſt of the raw inexpert People (eſpecially Seafaring Men) who come hither, always bring *Aqua-Fortis* along with them to prove Gold: But if theſe Men remembred the common Proverb, that there is no Gold without Droſs, they would ſoon grow weary of their weak Proof, and follow the Methods abovementioned.

The Sign by which they pretend to diſtinguiſh the falſe from the true Gold is, that after they have put it into a Glaſs or Earthen Veſſel, they pour *Aqua-Fortis* upon it; which, if it be falſe, diſcovers it by its Ebullition; and if mixed with falſe Gold, by turning green. A miſerable Tryal indeed! which they will ſoon be convinced of: For Example; if they take the value of four Pound in Gold, a ſeventh, eighth or tenth part of which is falſe, and pour their *Aqua-Fortis* upon it; let them, I ſay obſerve whether their *Aqua-Fortis* doth not produce the ſame Effect, though in leſs degree, as it would if the whole Maſs were falſe: For which reaſon

their

their Proof is very uncertain, and the more impracticable, becauſe the Operation is too tedious, and beſides very prejudicial to Trade, to refuſe the good Gold on account of an eighth or tenth part being falſe. I can aſſure you that the preſent times will not admit of ſuch uſeleſs Niceneſs. Wherefore the mentioned Proof by winnowing with the Copper Baſon being ſufficient to defend us againſt falſe Gold, is much to be preferred before melting it with *Aqua-Fortis*, and being at the trouble of drying it again; which the *Negroes* that have good Gold would ſcarce ſuffer.

Having treated of Gold at large, I am now obliged to ſay ſomething concerning the Gold Weights; which are either Pounds, Marks, Ounces, or Angels. In *Europe* twenty Angels make one Ounce, though here but ſixteen go to an Ounce: Here are alſo *Peſo*'s and *Bendo*'s; the former of which contain four Angels, and the latter two Ounces; as four *Bendo*'s make one Mark, and two Marks one Pound of Gold, computed according to the common value, exactly ſix hundred and ſixty Gilders; though this at ſeveral times differs in proportion, its Worth depending on its Goodneſs, and its riſing and falling in *Europe*. Notwithſtanding all this, we conſtantly here reckon three Marks of pure or good Gold worth one thouſand Gilders, and conſequently judge of the other Weights, in the proportion which they bear to this Quantity. We uſe here another kind of Weights, which are a ſort of Beans; the leaſt of which are red ſpotted with black, and are called *Dambay*'s; twenty four of them amounting to an Angel, and each of them reckoned two Styver Weights: The white Beans with black Spots, or thoſe entirely black, are heavier, and accounted four Styver Weights; theſe they uſually call *Tacoes*; but there are ſome which weigh half or a whole Gilder: But theſe are not eſteemed certain Weights, but uſed at pleaſure, and often become

In-

Inſtruments of Fraud. Several have believed that the *Negroes* only uſed wooden Weights; but it is a miſtake, all of them having caſt Weights either of Copper or Tin, which though divided or adjuſted in a manner quite different to ours, yet upon reduction agree exactly with them.

My Thoughts being taken up in deſcribing the Weights, I forget to inform you how the Gold is digged or found. I would refer to any intelligent Metalliſt, whether a vaſt deal of Oar muſt not of neceſſity be loſt here, from which a great deal of Gold might be ſeparated, for want of Skill in the Metallick Art: And not only ſo, but I firmly believe, that large quantities of pure Gold are left behind: For the *Negroes* only ignorantly dig at random, without the leaſt Knowledge of the Veins of the Mine. And I doubt not but if this Country belonged to the *Europeans*, they would ſoon find it to produce much richer Treaſures than the *Negroes* obtain from it: But it is not probable we ſhall ever poſſeſs that Liberty here; wherefore we muſt be content with being ſo far Maſters of it as we are at preſent, which if very well and prudently managed, would turn to a very great Account; of which I wiſh you no ſmall ſhare, and my ſelf a long continuance of Life to ſpend in your Service, *&c.*

LETTER. VII.

Containing a Computation how much Gold is Annually exported from this Country; to what Places it is tranſported; and the Diviſion of the Trade with the Negroes. *What Officers are appointed in our Service; and the Names of other Employments: Together with a general Liſt of the whole: And, laſtly, by way of Concluſion, a Deſcription of the Government of the Coaſt, and of the Council or Aſſembly of Counſellors.*

SIR,

MY laſt treated of the In-land Countries, from whence the Gold was brought; how it was digged; its ſeveral ſorts; the falſe Gold, *&c.* To purſue

purſue our Subject yet further; as I have told you whence 'tis brought, it is but neceſſary I ſhould inform you whither it is carried, and how much is yearly brought to the Coaſt. As for the laſt, I dare affirm it as a real truth, that they not only can, but do yearly in time of Peace, deliver the quantity of ſeven thouſand Marks of Gold. This is a large Sum; but it is divided amongſt ſo many, each being ſure to get ſome, that the whole is ſoon diſpoſed of. The moſt juſt Calculation of the Diviſion that I can poſſibly make, is as follows: *viz.*

	Marks.
Our *Weſt-India* Company yearly exports	1500
The *Engliſh African* Company	1200
	2700

But this is to be underſtood of ſuch Years in which the Commerce of both Companies happens to be very brisk; and I don't believe our Company hath for ſeveral Years paſt carried off above the half of this quantity.

The *Zealand* Interlopers are ſure to carry off as much Yearly as our Company:

Namely,	1500
The *Engliſh* Interlopers about	1000

But the laſt have for two or three Years paſt purſued this Trade ſo vigorouſly, that they have exported above twice that quantity

The *Brandenburghers* and *Danes*, in time of Peace, both together about	1000
The *Portugueſe* and *French* together at leaſt about	800
Which makes	7000

I ſay of the laſt at leaſt 800 Marks, and it is really true: For the *Portuguſe* come on this Coaſt, on pretence of ſelling their *American* Commodities, *viz.* Brazil Tobacco, Brandy and Rum, and are beſides as richly laden as the Interlopers themſelves;

ſelves; which is not to be wonder'd at; for they buy their Lading, take their Men on board, and fit out their Ships in *Holland:* Nay, to be ſhort, they are frequently fitted out at the Expence of *Dutch* Merchants, wherein the *Jews* have no ſmall hand, they knowing how to obtain a *Portugueſe* Paſs: And theſe Ships, when they come here to this Coaſt paſs for downright *Portugueſe:* How uneaſie this muſt needs be to an honeſt Officer in the Companies Service, you may eaſily imagine when a Factor, who commands one of our Forts, ſhall receive certain Advice, that ſeveral of the *Negroe*-Merchants are coming down well-ſtored with Gold, in order to lay it out with him, and that e're he arrives, is met by a *Portugueſe* or Interloper; who, by ſelling cheap, ſweeps a great part, if not all their Gold, whilſt we ſit ſtill with our Goods on our Hands, as if they were viſited by the Plague. I do not tell you more than I have to my ſorrow experienced.

Thus I have made a rough Calculation of the Quantity of Gold, which thoſe who underſtand the Affairs of the Coaſt, will, I doubt not, be pleaſed with; but thoſe unacquainted with this Trade, may, perhaps, think I have computed wrong: If I happen to ſee theſe Gentlemen, I ſhall civilly deſire them to correct my Computation; which no one having yet attempted, 'tis imparted to you for your Satisfaction, and to the beſt of my Knowledge as near the Truth as I could bring it.

According to our Reckoning then, there is brought hither and carried off exactly twenty three Tunn of Gold *, reckoning three Marks to one thouſand Gilders. But, as I told you, above all, this account ſuppoſeth a proſperous time when the Paſſes are all open and the Merchants can paſs ſafe, and

* *Note, a Tun of Gold in* Holland *is computed at* 100000 *Gilders, ſomewhat under* 10000 *Pound ſterling.*

uninter-

uninterrupted; but when the *Negroes* are at War with one another, I do not believe that half this Quantity is ſhipt off: And of this ſmall Quantity the Interlopers know very well how to come by their Share. And ſuppoſing our Company hath one fifth of the whole, yet when Trade is low they cannot get by it, but muſt make up the Deficiency by trading to other Coaſts: But I hope, e're long a way will be diſcovered of proſperouſly advancing our Trade here, to the diſadvantage of the Interlopers, which I cannot think very difficult; it conſiſting only in fixing a good Government on the Coaſt, and taking care in *Holland* that their Ships be laden with good Commodities, and proper for this place. However, I deſire you would not from hence expect a particular of what Merchandiſes are moſt vendible here; or that I ſhould acquaint you with the State of Trade here: that would be utterly incompatible with the faithful Service I owe our Company; I not knowing whether this Letter by ſome unaccountable Miſcarriage may not light into the Hands of the Interlopers, who know very well how to uſe it to their Advantage: And indeed they ſufficiently rob the Company of the Right which the States have given them on this Coaſt; ſo that none of us ought to help them to further Opportunities. Wherefore be pleaſed to ſatisfie your ſelf with an Account in general, that to trade on this Coaſt, about a hundred and fifty ſeveral ſorts of Commodities are neceſſary.

In my third Letter you have been informed that the Caſtle of St. *George d' Elmina* is our chief Place on this Coaſt, and that the General, principal Governour, chief Factor, and chief Fiſcal reſide there; before this Caſtle alſo do all our Ships which come from *Europe* caſt Anchor and unlade; and we have accordingly very fine Ware-houſes fitted for their Reception. This great Store-houſe is entruſted to the Charge of our chief Factor, and is ſometimes worth

worth a very conſiderable Sum; and from hence all our other Forts are ſupplied with their deſired Commodities. I would not have you conceive that we ſet up a Market with our Wares, or ſend any of them to be ſold without our Forts: No, that is not our Buſineſs; but the *Negroes* come daily to our Caſtle, or Fort, with their Gold; for which, after it is weighed, eſſayed and purified, they receive our Commodities; none of which ever go out of our Ware-houſes before they are paid for; and if the Factor will give any Credit, it is on his own account, and he is conſequently liable for the value to the Company, that they may not thereby ſuffer; nor can he charge the Preſents made to the *Negroe*-Merchants to their Accompt: But they, indeed, ſuperadd a certain Advance to all their Factors; from which they are not only enabled to make Preſents to the *Negroes*, but may be beſides conſiderable Annual Gainers thereby; and this is done to encourage them to the more diligent Service. Beſides, the *Negroes* having neither Carts, Waggons, Horſes, nor any other way to carry the bought Commodities to their In-land Dwellings than by Men, for about two or three Hundred Pounds value in Iron, Copper or Tin, have occaſion for the aſſiſtance of fifty Men: Now whether there be not an Advantage to be made of this by our Men I leave you to judge, though the Money got thereby is hardly enough earned, they being obliged for it to climb over Hills and paſs very bad Ways. Thoſe who come from the inward part of the Country to traffick with us are chiefly Slaves: One of which, on whom the Maſter repoſes the greateſt Truſt is appointed the chief of this *Caravan*: But when he comes to us he is not treated as a Slave, but as a very great Merchant, whom we take all poſſible care to oblige, as very well knowing that he being a peculiar Favourite of his Maſter, may at pleaſure go to the *Engliſh*, *Danes* and *Brandenburghers*, as well

as

as come to us; for which Reaſon we pay him double the reſpect we ſhould give his Maſter.

Having heard what *Negroe* Chap-men we have to deal with, now let us conſider what Officers and Servants are by the Company appointed on the other ſide; and how many Degrees of riſing we have on the Coaſt. I flatter my ſelf that this will not prove diſagreeable to you, becauſe it will afford a Proſpect of what Preferment your Nephew may arrive to, if he deport himſelf well.

Firſt of all, here are the Soldiers with their Commanders; out of which formerly the beſt qualified for Merchandiſe, and the Pen, were choſen to ſerve the Company as Aſſiſtants; by which means one with whom you and I are very well acquainted, hath found opportunity to advance himſelf to almoſt the higheſt Poſt here. But for ten or eleven Years laſt paſt, this hath not happened; becauſe the Gentlemen of the Company finding that not only thoſe qualified, but ſuch as were utterly incapable and idle Drunkards were promoted, have ordered that for the future no Soldiers ſhould be preferred to the Aſſiſtants Places; they may become Corporals, Serjeants or Officers, and ſtand fair for all Offices amongſt the Train of Workmen or in the Sea-Service; but an Aſſiſtant may, in proceſs of time, be promoted to the Government of the whole Coaſt.

The Office of Aſſiſtant is the loweſt among thoſe concerned in Trade or Writing; the Salary appointed for this Service is ſixteen Guilders *per* Month, and twenty Guilders more for Board-Wages: His firſt ſtep to Preferment is that of Under-Commiſſary or Under-Factor, with a Salary of twenty four Guilders *per* Month. By theſe Sub-factors moſt of the Gold is received, for which they are accountable to the Factor, or chief Factor, or him to whom the Trade of the place is entruſted in chief, who is alſo accountable to the Company; the general Ac-

compts of the whole Coaſt being kept at *Elmina*, where there is alſo a Ware-houſe Keeper, who hath all moiſt Goods, as Wine, Beer and Brandy, &c. all Edibles, as Fleſh, Peaſe, Beans, Oats, &c. under his keeping, and is entruſted with the Sale of them; So that when a Chief-Factor or Factor obſerves that his Sub-Factor or Ware-houſe Keeper are enclined to Extravagance, he is obliged to watch him very narrowly; for all that the Company ſuffer by him, the Factor is obliged to make good: Of which in leſs than four Years paſt we have a freſh Example, that one of my Brethren, not unknown to you, in ſuch a Caſe was obliged to make good about ſeven or eight Hundred Pounds, which he had not in the leaſt ſquandred. Thus a Factor who hath ſuch ſort of Men under him ought to look after them very carefully, or he may be ruined at once: 'Tis true, indeed, that he hath his Remedy againſt the guilty Perſon; but what can that avail if he hath neither Effects or Money? which it rarely happens that any of theſe Men have; for I don't believe that thoſe who can live on their Means in *Holland* will ever come to ſuch a Country as this; nor is it very probable that their Friends in *Europe* will make ſatisfaction for their Follies: So that the Factors laſt Refuge is to bring the Offender to condign Corporal Puniſhment; which will not in the leaſt contribute to his Re-imburſement. Wherefore, as I ſaid before, his beſt way is to look cloſe after them, and ſtop them in the beginning of their Extravagancies.

Out of the above mentioned Under-Commiſſaries, the oldeſt in Service, or the beſt qualified, are choſen Commiſſaries or Factors to reſide at, and command our Out-Forts, and take care of the Trade there; with a Salary of thirty ſix Guilders, beſides an allowance of ten Guilders for a Servant or two, and twenty Guilders Board-Wages *per* Month, beſides the certain before-mentioned Advance on the Trade.

The

The oldeſt and moſt experienced of theſe Factors is promoted to *Mouree* or *Cormantyn*, his Salary being raiſed to eighty Guilders *per* Month; ſuppoſing that upon being choſen by the Council here, he be confirmed by the Company: Who, not without good Reaſon, have retained the ſupplying theſe important Poſts to themſelves; as they have alſo that of the chief Factor of *Elmina*, or the ſecond Perſon upon the Coaſt, who hath a Salary of one Hundred Guilders *per* Month. Theſe chief Factors have alſo the ſame Advance on Merchandiſes and Board-Wages, as the other Factors; beſides which the ſecond Perſon hath ten Guilders *per* Month allowed for a Servant, and the General's or Governour General's Table is at his ſervice. The Choice or Confirmation of theſe chief Factors being reſerved to the Company, that upon the Death of the Governour, or ſecond Perſon, they may have others ready; of whoſe Fidelity they are very well ſatisfied to ſupply their Places; and the chief Factor of *Elmina* having ſatisfactorily diſcharged that Office three Years; he may, if favoured by Fortune, happen to be advanced, (if it falls vacant) to the higheſt Poſt of Governour General, who is entruſted with the Companies Authority over the whole Coaſt; of which he is Director-General, with a Salary of three Hundred Guilders *per* Month, and a large Perquiſite, Advantage in what ever is traded on account of the Company on the whole Coaſt: So that when Commerce is in a flouriſhing Condition here, his Poſt is very advantageous.

Till within theſe two laſt Years, the chief Factors of *Mouree* and *Cormantyn* had alſo the Advantage of the Slave Trade of *Fida* and *Ardria*, which turned to ſome account, and was indeed more advantageous to them than the Gold Trade; the Commerce there being at ſo low an ebb, that without the mentioned Slave-Traffick, they could not live up to the Port which the dignity of their Poſts required, without ſuf-

fering by it. But ſince ſome ill-meaning Men have prepoſſeſſed the Directors of the Company in prejudice of them, by urging that by this means they became too rich; for which Reaſon they have thought fit to entruſt the Slave Trade to the Maſters of the Ships, which they ſend hither: The Conſequence of which time will diſcover; but for my part I don't expect they will find it conduce much to their Intereſt: for the Commanders of Ships, though very expert in all Sea Affairs, yet being unacquainted with the *Negroes*, will not be able to ſucceed very well: Beſides that ſome of them are of ſuch a Booriſh Nature, that they hardly know how to preſerve the Honour of the Company amongſt the *Negroes*. I would not here be underſtood to ſpeak of them all, for there are ſeveral Men of very good Parts amongſt them: But the difference occaſioned by this new Practice will clearly appear with reſpect to the other *Europeans* trading hither; and I cannot believe it will turn to the Advantage of the Company. But of this enough: Beſides the Officers employed in the Trade on this Coaſt, there are the following Offices.

Firſt, the Chief Fiſcal, whoſe Salary is fifty Guilders, and ten Guilders *per* Month for a Servant, beſides the Liberty of the General's Table. Though the Fiſcal's Salary ſeem very ſmall, yet his perquiſite Profits, if he is diligent, are very large; for all the Gold or Commodities unlawfully traded for on the Coaſt is forfeit; of which his ſhare is one third part, whether the Goods in queſtion belong to *Europeans* or *Negroes*; beſides a third part of the Fines ſet upon the latter, and the forfeiture of Wages inflicted on any offending Officers or Servants by the Governour and Council: all which put together amount to a conſiderable Sum. Next the Fiſcal the Book-keeper General takes place; whoſe Province is to keep the great Books, and the Counter-parts of the Accounts of all our Forts or Lodges

on

on the Coaſt: Or, in ſhort, to take care of all the Companies Accompts in this Country: His Salary is ſeventy Guilders, beſides ten Guilders *per* Month for his Servants; and for a free Table is allowed twenty five Guilders more: He is generally aſſiſted by an Under-Book-keeper, whoſe Salary is thirty Guilders *per* Month and two Aſſiſtants. Next him is the Book-keeper or Accomptant of the Garriſon; whoſe Title ſufficiently explains his Office, and his Salary equal to a Sub-factor's, is twenty four Guilders, though Factors have thirty ſix Guilders; ſo to make amends he hath the Power of ſelling by Auction the Effects of all Perſons who die upon the Coaſt; for which he is allowed five *per Cent. ad valorem*; he is alſo commonly helped by an Aſſiſtant. Sometimes here is alſo a Secretary, whoſe Salary is fifty Guilders *per* Month, and under him he hath three or four Aſſiſtants; but in my time we contented our ſelves with an under Secretary, and the above-mentioned number of Aſſiſtants.

The laſt and moſt contemptible Office is that of Under-Fiſcal, commonly called by us, Auditor, though in his Walks, *Informer*, as he really is no better; his Salary is twenty Guilders *per* Month, and to his ſhare falls alſo a tenth of all Forfeitures: His Perſon is had in utmoſt Contempt by all; yet to honour him as much as poſſible, he takes place of all the Sub-factors, as the Fiſcal (who alſo is not the more loved on account of his Office) doth of all the chief Factors, nay, even the ſecond Perſon on the Coaſt; though by the Governour's leave that place not only belongs to the chief Factor of *Elmina*, but to thoſe of *Mouree* and *Cormantyn*.

Having run through our Temporal State, we now come to our Spiritual Preferments; which are but two, the firſt a Miniſter, with a Salary of one Hundred, the ſecond a Clerk, with that of twenty Guilders *per* Month; beſides which, the firſt hath ten Guilders *per* Month allowed for a Servant, and

a place at the Governour's Table. What do you think, Sir? don't we pay our Clergy-man pretty well? I'll aſſure you, if you think we live licentious Lives, you are in the wrong, for we are very religious; we are obliged to go to Church every Day, on forfeiture of twenty five Styvers, except on *Sundays* and *Thurſdays*, when the forfeiture for omiſſion is doubled: But I know you will reply, this is a forced ſervice of God, and conſequently not always accompanied with the moſt ſincere Intentions: And to confeſs the Truth, it is not much better; for were not the reſtraint laid upon us, ſome would rather pay a viſit elſewhere than to the Church.

Theſe being all the Officers and Servants we have on the Coaſt beſides Work-men or Labourers and Soldiers, they are commonly ranked as follows.

The Director-General.
The Preacher, always next the Director.
The Fiſcal.
The chief-Factor.
Two or three chief-Factors beſides.

Seven or eight Factors.
Nine or ten Sub-factors
Eighteen or twenty Aſſiſtants.

} The Number of theſe varies daily; ſo that there are ſometimes more, and ſeveral times leſs of each.

A Ware-houſe Keeper.
Accomptant or Book-keeper General.
Under Book-keeper.
Accomptant or Book-keeper to the Garriſon.
Clerk of the Church.
An Auditor or Informer.

There not being in all upon the whole Coaſt ſixty Perſons, one third of which are Aſſiſtants, you may eaſily conclude that any Perſon who comes hither in the Aſſiſtants place, and behaves himſelf well, upon the Death of ſome of his Superiours, can-

cannot miſs being preferr'd to a good Poſt; but how the greateſt part behave themſelves, and what ſort of Lives they lead, will perhaps be more proper for another place; And therefore to conclude this Letter, I ſhall only inform you how, and by whom this Coaſt is governed.

The Government or Direction of the Coaſt is principally veſted in the Director-General as the Supreme Ruler; from whom all Governours of the out-Forts receive their Commands; and ſubordinate to whom they are obliged to act, they not being impowered to tranſact any important Affairs without his Knowledge and intire Conſent: But difficult Affairs, or thoſe of greater Importance, are cognizable to, and ought to be laid before the Aſſembly of Counſellors, or Council compoſed of, *viz.*

The Director-General,
The Fiſcal, in other things beſides Criminal Caſes,
The chief Factors,
The Enſign or Banner-Bearer, and ſometimes the Accomptant-General,

who jointly make up the Council: To which are added the Factors of the out-Forts, as occaſional or extraordinary Counſellors. In this Council every Member is freely permitted to offer his Thoughts on what is in debate; but a wary Man will be apt to obſerve which ſide the Governour is enclined to, and not eaſily be perſuaded to thwart him whatever he thinks, leaſt he ſhould fall under his Diſpleaſure: This was ſo well obſerved, during my ſtay here, that I believe there were very few reſolutions of the Council, which were contrary to the Governour's Opinion: 'Tis no very hard matter to believe this, ſince ſome reſpect is due to him; and beſides many have found their Accompt, by this ſort of compliance, not thinking themſelves obliged, to enquire whether it agreed with the Intereſt of

the Company or not; 'twas ſufficient that they ſerved themſelves; the Shirt being nearer than the Coat (according to the Proverb) they could not ſee any great harm in it. But though this is their Opinion, I have always had other Sentiments, though I have been ſometimes reſtrained from expreſſing them, for Reaſons which I ſhall hereafter give you. I have often ſmiled at the glittering Title of the Council of the North and South Coaſt of *Africa*, which you and others frequently give us, eſpecially when I conſider that we are nothing leſs, and though we have all the Name have none of the Power. I doubt but you and moſt in *Europe* take us for a regular and well-managed Council, and that nothing is tranſacted without our Conſent. Alas! my good Friend, how are you miſtaken! but if you would be informed how far the Name and real Thing agree; 'tis neceſſary you be firſt informed that a Director-General is a Perſon who governs all others, from the higheſt to the loweſt on the Coaſt with an Arbitrary Power; who may at pleaſure oblige his Inferiours to ſubmit to his Will, contrary to all Reaſon: And to go yet farther, he can diſcharge them their Offices and ſend them off the Coaſt, without giving the leaſt Reaſon for ſo doing. Such a Director, as I have deſcribed, coming into the Council, and firmly reſolved to carry the thing to be debated; I would fain know who dare take the Liberty to oppoſe him, knowing how dear it may coſt him, unleſs he be backed by others, which he hath no great Reaſon to expect: Wherefore every Man rather chooſeth to comply with an *Tea* Brother, than by contradicting the Governour, to incur his Diſpleaſure, and do the Company no manner of Service.

But if you ask me why a Director reſolved to take no advice, but abſolutely follow his own Inclinations, doth ever ſummon a Council: I anſwer, firſt, that the Directors of the Company may be informed

formed that he did ſo; not knowing the uſe he made of that Aſſembly. Secondly, when Offenders are to be puniſhed with Capital or Corporal Puniſhments; that not being otherwiſe to be done than in form of Law: And, thirdly, for the Government of the Coaſt which is reſolved and ſettled in the Council, and leaſt when any thing happens wrong the Governour ſhould want an excuſe, he now being able confidently to alledge that he acted by the Advice of the whole Council by whom it was alſo ſo reſolved, tho' their real Opinions were at the ſame time as diſtant from their Suffrages as Eaſt and Weſt.

In ſhort, the Council is of no other real uſe, than to participate of the Governour's Faults, and to ſhelter him from being anſwerable for them. Thus it clearly appears, that it is impoſſible for the Companies Affairs to ſucceed under an ill Governour. Wherefore, for the Intereſt of the Company, I hope that its Directors will for the future diminiſh the Governour's Power, charging him expreſly to regulate himſelf more by the Advice of the Council: Which, when the Directors pleaſe to do, I can't doubt of ſeeing a more regular Government on the Coaſt, and all Affairs managed with more Juſtice and Diſcretion.

Now you are juſtly informed of the Nature of our Council; would you deſire to be a Member? I believe not; and for my part I aſſure you, that I had rather quit the Honour to obtain a Liberty of being in reality a Councellour, inſtead of bearing the Name only. Yours, *&c.*

LET-

LETTER. VIII.

The Insalubrity of the Coast: The Author's Opinion from whence it proceeds. The Difference betwixt the present and former Seasons. Some Instances of violent Thunders, and the Damage occasioned by them.

SIR,

YEsterday I sealed my last to you, on suspicion that the Ship would sail last Night; but they being stayed by an unavoidable Obstacle one Day longer, and I at present at leisure, I have dedicated this Day to your Service, in committing the following Lines to Paper, which please to honour with your Perusal.

The *Guinea* Gold Coast is situate about the fifth Degree of Northern Latitude: From which you may easily inferr, that we live in a scorching Air, though not so bad as is reported; for it is become too customary for Men in their Relations rather to add than to diminish. Several who have lived some Years here with me, must own, as well as I, that in the Months *October*, *November*, *December*, *January*, *February* and *March*, the Heat is very violent here; but it is not so hot in the six remaining Months, but that it can be easily born without the least inconvenience: I have known the time when we could as well have endured a Fire, if we had not been ashamed, as in *Europe* about *September*; besides, the whole Year is here refreshed with cool Evenings: So that he that hath lived here ten Years, and consequently his Body become opener than in *Holland*, will not be apt to complain very much of the Heat.

The Unwholesomeness of this Coast, in my Opinion, seems chiefly owing to the Heat of the Day, and coolness of the Night; which sudden change, I am induced to believe occasions several contrary Effects in our Bodies, especially in those who are not

not accuſtomed to bear more Heat than Cold, by too haſtily throwing off their Cloaths to cool too faſt.

The ſecond and greateſt Cauſe which I can find is, That the Gold Coaſt from one end to the other, ſo greatly abounds with high Mountains, in the Valleys betwixt which, every Morning a thick, ſtinking and ſulphurous Damp or Miſt riſeth, eſpecially near Rivers or Watry-places: Which Miſt ſo ſpreads its ſelf, and falls ſo thick on the Earth, that it is almoſt impoſſible to eſcape the Infection while we are faſting, and our Bodies more ſuſceptible of it than the Natives. This Fog happeneth moſt frequently in the ill Seaſon of the ſix Months, which we here call Winter, but more eſpecially in *July* and *Auguſt*. Wherefore we are more ſeized with Sickneſs in that time, than in the good Seaſon or Summer. The Stench of this unwholeſome Miſt is very much augmented by the *Negroes*, pernicious Cuſtom of laying their Fiſh for five or ſix Days to putrify before they eat it, and their eaſing their Bodies round their Houſes, and all over their Towns; and if this odious Mixture of noyſome Stenches very much affects the State of Health here, it is not to be wondered, ſince 'tis next to impoſſibility, not only for new Comers, but thoſe who have long continued here, to preſerve themſelves intirely from its Malign Effects. The great Difference betwixt the *European* Air and this, is ſo obſervable, that few come hither, who are not at firſt ſeized by a Sickneſs which carries off a great many, and that chiefly becauſe we are ſo wretchedly unprovided with what ſhould comfort and nouriſh theſe poor Men; for we have no help to have recourſe to but corrupted Med'cines, and unskilful Phyſicians, they being only ignorant Barbers, who bring ſeveral into the utmoſt danger of their Lives: Whereas Nature is ſtrong enough, by the Aſſiſtance of good nouriſhing Diet and Reſtoratives,

ratives, it might probably recover the Patient. But, alas! how ſhould he be able to get them? For our Medicines, as I have before told you, are moſt of them ſpoiled; and for Food, what is here to be gotten for the common People beſides Fiſh and a dry lean Hen? And, indeed, were he able to pay for better, here is nothing proper for a weak Stomach; for all the Oxen or Cows, Sheep and Hens, are dry, lean and tough: So that a ſound Man, not to mention an infirm one, hath enough to do to eat them. So that the beſt, beſide proper Phyſick, that the poor Sick can get here, are Culinary Vegetable and Spoon-Meats; the Director and the chief-Factor are abundantly furniſhed with the former, but they are not in every Bodies reach.

There are ſeveral who would fain perſwade us that our Mens Sickneſs here is owing to their own Miſmanagement; urging that they might very eaſily prevent it by a regular Life, and carefully avoiding all Exceſſes in Eating and Drinking: But Experience convinces us of their miſtake, for we daily ſee the moſt temperate and regular Men ſeized with dangerous and too often Mortal Diſeaſes.

But it is indeed to be owned, that ſome people here occaſion their own Sickneſs; though that cannot be ſaid of all. If theſe Men were more careful of their Healths, 'tis more than probable that ſo many would not ſicken and die here yearly as now do: But theſe raſh and inconſiderate Wretches no ſooner receive their Pay, than (if not already indebted that Sum) they laviſh it out in Palm-Wine and Brandy; both which taken in exceſs, are very pernicious: which is not the only Inconvenience; for ſpending their Money thus idly, they do not allow themſelves ſufficient to buy neceſſary Food; the defect of which they are then forced to ſupply with Bread, Oil and Salt, or at beſt with a little Fiſh; ſo that it is hardly to be expected, that theſe

Men

Men ſhould be healthful. This is the common courſe of Life which the ordinary people here lead: And it were to be wiſhed that their Example was not followed by their Superiours; exceſſive drinking being here too much in vogue; and the larger their Salary is, the greater their Thirſt appears to be; and conſequently the leſs regard had to the Kitchen. Some are alſo very lucky if their Pay be not attached, and they entred into Bonds as deep as their preſent and future Salary will ſatisfie; or what is worſe yet beyond all this, in hopes only that their Relations will ſatisfie it: All which eats like a Canker; and yet they are by uſe ſo bigotted to drinking, that 'twould be impoſſible to keep them from it by Blows: And to make the quicker Work, they are as zealous Votaries to *Venus* as to *Bacchus*, and ſo waſte the ſmall portion of Strength left them from tipling and the ill Air, and then adieu Health, and ſoon after Life it ſelf. But it is indeed convenient it ſhould be ſo; another wants his place: If Men lived here as long as in *Europe*, 'twould be leſs worth while to come hither, and a Man would be obliged to wait too long before he got a good Poſt; without which no body will eaſily return rich from *Guinea*, the chief Perſons there being the only People who can lay up any thing, and they not near ſo much as is reported of them. However the Money we get here is indeed hardly enough acquired: If you conſider we ſtake our beſt Pledge, that is, our Lives, in order to it.

But to return to the Unhealthfulneſs of this Country. Some here diſtinguiſh betwixt one place and another; and I am ſomewhat inclined to their Opinion: If they chooſe thoſe places where the Wind blows continually and very freſh, and where the *Negroes* occaſion the leaſt Stench, they are undoubtedly the moſt healthful; and as ſuch I ſhould prefer *Boutry* and *Zaconde* in the firſt place.

How

How unwholſome ſoever this Country is, yet we find very few of the Natives afflicted with any Diſtemper; which yet is not much to be wondred at, ſince they being born in this Air; and bred up in the Stench, are not liable to be infected with the one or the other. The National Diſeaſes here are the *Small-Pox* and *Worms*; by the former of which in theſe thirteen or fourteen Years time thouſands of Men have been ſwept away: And with the latter they are miſerably afflicted in all parts of their Bodies, but chiefly in their Legs; which occaſions a grievous Pain, which they are forced to bear till they can get the *Worm* quite out, that being ſometimes a Month: The manner which the Artiſts take to get it out is this; as ſoon as the Worm is broken thro' the Tumour, his Head commonly firſt making its way, after they have drawn it out a little way, they make it faſt to a ſtick, about which they every day wind a ſmall part of it, till continuing this tedious Method, they have entirely wound out the whole, and the Patient is freed from his Pain. But if the Worm happens to break, they are put to a double Torture, the remainder part of the Worm either rotting in the Body, or breaking out at ſome other place. The *Negroes* are moſt afflicted with theſe Worms: But though the *Europeans* are but ſeldom troubled with them, yet they do not eſcape them entirely. I have ſeen ſome *Negroes* who had nine or ten of them at once, with which they were inexpreſſibly tormented. This *Worm-Diſeaſe* is frequent all the Coaſt over; but our Men are moſt tormented with it at *Cormantyn* and *Apam*; which perhaps may be occaſioned by the foul Water which they are obliged to drink there. If you would know the length of theſe Worms, Monſieur *Focquenbrog* obligeth you with a pathetical Deſcription; by which you are informed that they are ſome of them an Ell-long, and ſome as long as Pikes, and have not the patience to ſtay till the Man is dead, but ſeize him alive.

In

In the Country of *Ante* ſeveral *Negroes* are afflicted with Ravenous Appetites; which is thought to proceed from their drinking a ſort of Palm-wine called *Criſia*.

The Natives are very much to be pitied, that being ſhot, cut, or otherwiſe wounded in their Wars, they neither know nor have any other way of cure than by green Plants, which they boil in Water and foment the part with that Decoction; which proves effectual in ſome caſes, theſe Vegetables being endowed with a wonderful Sanative Vertue. But others either not knowing the Simples, or being ignorant how to prepare them aright, apply their Fomentations in vain: Whilſt the Wound Gangrenes, and at beſt turns to a running, which continues the whole Life. Thoſe ſeized by the Venereal Diſtemper, are alſo incurable, except they happening to be near our Fort fall into our Barbers Hands; who, for a good large Sum of Money cure them.

Beſides the above-mentioned Diſtempers, moſt of the *Negroes* live healthful Lives, but ſeldom arrive to a great Age: The Reaſon of which, owning my Ignorance, I dare not pretend to aſſign. 'Tis obſervable that here are ſeveral Grey-headed People, who look as if they were old, but indeed are not ſo; this perhaps may be owing to their too early and exceſſive Venery, by which they ſo enfeeble themſelves, that a Man of fifty (a good old Age here) ſeized by any Sickneſs, generally leaves this World. Natures Dictates are very early underſtood here; and Children of eight or nine Years know very well how the World is propagated, and before twelve they generally reduce their Knowledge into practice: So that it is next to an impoſſibility to meet with a Maid at Marriageable Years. The Inhabitants for that Reaſon to ſecure a Maidenhead marry young, and perhaps then have it juſt as ſecure as a handful of Flies; for the young Children

dren hearing daily ſuch diſcourſe as is not very proper for their Ears, and which is the common Converſation of the *Negroes*, ſeldom have patience till they come to Years of Maturity.

'Twill not be Labour loſt to ſay ſomething concerning the Winter and Summer, or the good and bad Time, as it is called here; and the great Alteration of Weather, which I have obſerved here in the ſpace of ten Years. The Summer is accounted to begin with *September*, and continue the five ſubſequent Months, and the Winter takes up the remaining ſix Months in the Year, and is ſub-divided into two Rainy, two Miſty and two Windy Months: But the Seaſon alters ſo much from Year to Year that we have in a manner left off reckoning them; the Summer comes ſometimes a whole Month earlier one Year than another, and the ſame is alſo obſerved of the Miſt and Rain. In ſhort, they come ſo confuſed and uncertain, that it is impoſſible to make any Calculation of them.

Formerly, when I firſt came to the Coaſt, Summer and Winter ſucceeded alternately, exactly at a certain time, and the latter was much ſeverer than at preſent. The Rains were ſo violent, continuing for ſeveral Days ſucceſſively as if the Country were to be drowned, and we expected a ſecond Deluge; but at preſent are not either ſo violent nor ſo frequent. *Axim*, which is but twenty Miles from *Elmina*, is generally more moiſtened with Rains than any place upon the whole Coaſt: And I did not a little wonder when I was firſt placed there, that the Rains continued ſo long; for asking one of our Military Officers how long it commonly laſted? he told me above eleven Months, and twenty eight Days in a Year, and conſequently every Leap-Year was bleſſed with one whole Day of fair Weather: But though the Officer ſtretched a little; yet 'tis undeniably true, that it rains here at leaſt half the Year; for which Reaſon only Rice

and

and Trees can grow, the other Fruits being deſtroy-by too much Wet.

'Tis ſurprizing to obſerve that the Storms or Travadoes, as they are here called, are in a few Years ſo very much leſſened; and ſince I am to ſpeak of the Winds and Thunder here, I ſhall firſt take notice how violent the Wind uſed to blow here. You may be informed by Monſieur *Focquenbrog*, that when he was here, ſuch a great and ſudden Storm aroſe, that the Ships at Sea durſt not ſail with full Sail, for fear of being over-turned or ſplit againſt the Rocks or Shores: But at preſent here is not the leaſt Reaſon to be afraid; for though we are ſometimes attacked by violent Travadoes, or Storms of Thunder, Lightning and Wind, yet they don't come upon us either ſo ſuddenly, or forcibly as to occaſion any very remarkable Damage.

In ſome old Papers of the Director *Valkenburg* concerning the Coaſt, I found that at *Elmina*, in the Year 1651, there was ſuch a terrible Thunder, which ſo affrighted every Body, that they thought the World was at end: The Gold and Silver was melted in the Bags, which remained untouched; and their Swords broken in their Scabbards, without the latter's being perceivably ſinged, as well as ſeveral ſtrange Accidents which then happened: But the Paper being Worm-eaten I could not diſtinctly read it, only I perceived that they were in diſmal Apprehenſions for their Gun-powder, the Thunder ſeeming moſt violent where that was.

About 1691. when I was at *Boutry*, there was ſuch a fierce and boiſterous Storm in the Country of *Ante*, that Hundreds or rather Thouſands of Trees, were either thrown down to the Ground, or blaſted by Lightning. The Stake which ſupported our Flag was ſhattered into Splinters from top to bottom, and yet remained ſtanding, but ſo torn

aſunder, as if one or two Hundred Chiſſels had been driven into it in order to ſplit it. The *Negroes*, in the ſame terrified Condition with us, being of Opinion that the force of the Thunder is contained in a certain Stone; after the Storm was over brought one, which they ridiculouſly believed had ſo ſhattered our Flag-pole: But no wonder they were of that Opinion; for in *Europe*, where we think we are better informed, ſeveral People don't much differ from them. But what I have obſerved of the Effects of Thunder, is ſufficient to convince me that 'tis impoſſible they ſhould be cauſed by a Stone; nor is there any natural Reaſon for it; and with ſuper-natural Things I have nothing to do, but had rather believe it the Effects of a violent Compreſſion of Air: But the manner of its Operation I leave the Naturaliſts to determine.

Not long after, a like Accident happened to one of our Ships cruiſing before *Axim*, very much injuring its Main-Maſt and Bolt-Sprit.

In 1693. or 1694. the Thunder broke all the Drinking-Glaſſes of the Factor's Chamber, and raiſed up his Child with the Bed under it; both which it threw ſome feet diſtant, without the leaſt hurt done. What do you think, Sir? was it poſſible for a Stone to do this? I believe not.

Not long after this, the *Engliſh* Fort at *Acra* was ſo roughly handled by the Thunder, that its Walls were left ſhattered with Holes even to the Powder-Room, and ſome Pewter-Porengers were melted into a Lump. 'Tis eaſy to imagine with what terrour they were ſtruck when they found it come ſo near their Powder.

When I had the Government of *Mouree*, one of the Turrets was rent ſeveral feet by a Clap of Thunder; and my Conſtable being lodged there, affirmed in the Morning he had received a violent Shock on his Arm without any farther Injury: However,

However, I was in great Danger; for having the Day before removed my Powder, I had cauſed two or three Thouſand Pounds of it to be brought into the Garret, where it lay when the Storm began; but I could not be eaſy 'till it was carried to a ſafer Place; however before that could be done I was in no ſmall Confuſion.

From what I have related you may collect what ſort of Weather we were formerly accuſtomed to; which ſo ſeldom happens at preſent, that in the ſpace of three or four Years we have not obſerved any thing extraordinary of that Nature to happen.

The Difference betwixt the Heat and Cold formerly and at preſent, is alſo very great; for the Heat has been here ſo exceſſive in Summer-time, that we ſeemed to have Dog-days as well as in *Europe*; but now it is become more moderate and ſupportable: The Cold was alſo then ſo fierce in the Nights, that we were perſwaded it froze; and in reality we were not much in the wrong, for the Earth, which uſually is very moiſt by reaſon of the Dew, was on the contrary dry and appeared whitiſh. Some of my Predeceſſors affirmed, that coming into their Accompting-Houſe in the Morning, they found their Ink frozen: The Truth of which I will not determine, but only hand it to you as I received it. X

But this I aſſure you, that we have felt Nights ſo cold about *September*, that they made us ſhake, as I told you before. The preſent Winters are indeed cold, but not ſo ſevere as formerly, tho' they continue longer; for we have two Thirds, or at leaſt half of the Year Winter; Which while I am Writing I believe you begin to think of, and I wiſh it may happen to you in due Seaſon, and be ſo mild as not to give you the leaſt Uneaſineſs, but afford you as much Pleaſure as is poſſible to be wiſhed by, Yours, *&c.*

X Called Kamaſtons by Dampier and others.

LETTER. IX.

Of the Natural Diſpoſition and Manners of the Negroes *on the Gold Coaſt. That they are very fraudulent and crafty, idle and careleſs. Of their Cloathing, Education of Children, and Complements; Their Courteous Reception of Viſitants; and their manner of Viſiting amongſt the great Men. Of their Manual Arts; Navigation, Fiſhing and Agriculture. The Differences of Languages on the Gold Coaſt. Their Nobility: How many Degrees of Preference amongſt them. Their careleſs ill-contrived Way of Building, and making their Roads. Their Muſical Inſtruments; they have no Beggars amongſt them, only thoſe ſhameleſs ones who do not want. A Deſcription of the* Mulattoes.

SIR,

YOURS of the 24th reached me in very good time. But my preſent intended Subject is likely ſo to over-charge this, that for want of room I ſhall be obliged to defer anſwering yours till the next opportunity, when I promiſe not to fail.

I deſign to treat of the Natural Temper of the Natives; and if this Letter doth not ſwell to an unuſual Bulk, I ſhall be at a loſs to do Juſtice to my Subject: Wherefore I muſt beg your excuſe for crouding ſo many things into one Letter ſo immethodically, for you are preſented with them as they occur to me; and ſo, Sir, be pleaſed to accept them.

To begin. The *Negroes* are all, without Exception, crafty, villainous and fraudulent, and very ſeldom to be truſted; being ſure to ſlip no Opportunity of cheating an *European*, nor indeed one another. A Man of Integrity is as rare among them as a white Falcon, and their Fidelity ſeldom extends farther than to their Maſters; and it would be very ſurprizing if upon a Scrutiny into their Lives we ſhould find any of them whoſe perverſe Nature would not break out ſometimes; for they indeed ſeem to be born and bred Villains: All ſorts of Baſeneſs having got ſuch ſure-footing in them, that

'tis

'tis impoſſible to lie concealed; and herein they agree very well with what Authors tell us of the *Muſcovites*. Theſe degenerate Vices are accompanied with their Siſters, Sloth and Idleneſs; to which they are ſo prone that nothing but the utmoſt Neceſſity can force them to Labour: They are beſides ſo incredibly careleſs and ſtupid, and are ſo little concerned at their Misfortunes, that 'tis hardly to be obſerved by any Change in them whether they have met with any good or ill Succeſs. An Inſtance of which is that when they have obtained a Victory over their Enemies, they return Home diverting themſelves with leaping and dancing: But if on their ſide they are beaten out of the Field, and utterly routed, they yet feaſt and are merry, and dance, and can chearfully ſport around a Grave. In ſhort, Proſperity and Adverſity are no otherwiſe diſtinguiſhable in them than in the cloathing and ſhaving of their Head: Of which more hereafter. Monſieur *Focquenbrog*'s Deſcription of them is undeniably true, when he informs us, that they feaſt at Graves, and if they ſhould ſee their Country in Flames, would cry out, let it burn, and not ſuffer it in the leaſt to interrupt their Singing, Dancing and Drinking: That they are equally inſenſible of Grief and Neceſſity, ſing till they die, and dance into the Grave.

This Deſcription is ſo pertinent, I believe it cannot be mended in ſo few Words. 'Tis true indeed, that they very greedily heap up Money and Goods; to which their Minds are ſtrongly inclined: But after that they ſet ſo ſmall a value upon them, that if they meet with a very great Loſs, you can never perceive it by their Carriage, it never robs them of an Hours Repoſe; and they are no ſooner at their reſting-place, but, like the Beaſts, they ſleep perfectly undiſturbed by any Melancholy Reflections: So that the Advice, not to take

care for the Morrow, ſeems deſigned more peculiarly from the practice of theſe Men.

Their Young are extraordinary vain, and deſirous to paſs for Perſons of Quality, though perhaps but Slaves: Notwithſtanding which they mighty carefully adorn their Bodies, and are very fine in their way.

But now let us ſee how they manage the Affairs of Dreſs. The Faſhions of adorning their Heads are very various; ſome wear very long Hair curled and platted together and tyed up to the Crown of the Head; others turn their Hair into very ſmall Curls, moiſtning them with Oil and a ſort of Dye, and then adjuſt them in the Shape of Roſes; between which they wear Gold *Fetiche's*, or a ſort of Coral here called *Conte de Terra*, which is ſometimes of a quadruple Value to Gold, as alſo a ſort of blew Coral, which we call *Agrie*, and the *Negroes*, *Accori*, which being moderately large, is ſo much valued, that 'tis generally weighed againſt Gold. They are very fond of our Hats, never thinking they pay too much for them. Their Arms, Legs and Waſte, are adorned with Gold, and the abovementioned ſorts of Coral. Their common Habit is made of three or four Ells of either Velvet, Silk, Cloth, *Perpetuana*, or ſome ſort of Stuff; and ſeveral have this ſort of Habit or Paan, as they call it, made of fifty ſorts of Stuff. This they throw about the Body and roll it up into a ſmall compaſs, and make it faſt; ſo that it hangs from the Navel downwards, covering the Legs half way: About their Arms they alſo wear Ornamental Rings made of Ivory, Gold, Silver, *&c.* and about their Necks Strings or Chains of Gold, and Coral amongſt their abovementioned Dreſs: And I remember to have ſeen ſeveral of theſe Strings or Chains worth above one Hundred Pounds Sterling. But theſe are the Jewels; and they who want them are no Company for thoſe who have them.

The

The *Manceroes* or Youth do not dreſs themſelves ſo pompouſly; but the *Cabocero's* or chief People are as meanly and plainly habited, chooſing rather to paſs for poor than rich Men. They wear only a good Paan, a Cap made of Harts Skin upon their Heads, and a Staff in their Hands, like the old *Iſraelites*, and a String or Chain of Coral about their Heads: And this is the Dreſs they daily appear in.

The Commonalty, ſuch as Wine-Drawers, Fiſhermen, and ſuch like, are very poorly habited, ſome with an Ell or two of ſorry Stuff, others with a ſort of Girdle only drawn through between their Legs and wrapped about them juſt to hide their Nakedneſs: To which the Fiſhermen add, a Cap made of Harts Skins or Ruſhes, though moſt of them endeavour to get an old Hat of the Sailors, which ſerves them in hot as well as cold Weather. The Men here are not ſo very much addicted to ſumptuous Attire; but Pride even amongſt the Savage, as well as in the *Netherlands* and all *Europe* over, ſeems to have eſtabliſhed its Throne amongſt the Female Sex: And accordingly the Womens Dreſs is richer than the Mens. Ladies plat their Hair very artfully, and place their *Fetiche's*, Coral and Ivory, with a judicious Air, and go much finer than the Men. About their Necks they wear Gold Chains and Strings of Coral, beſides ten or twelve ſmall white Strings of *Conte de Terra*, and Gold; about their Arms and Legs alſo they are plentifully ſtored therewith; and they wear them ſo thick about their Waſte, that their Nakedneſs would be ſufficiently covered thereby, if they wore no Cloaths; and the rather becauſe they always have a Garter or rather Girdle. Perhaps Mr. *Conſtantyn Huygens* thought of our black Miſtreſſes when he adviſeth the Men to two, and ſome Women to three Garters; and if Stockings were in faſhion here three Garters would be ſoon thought as neceſſary

as one is now: But this by the by. To return to our *Negroe* Ladies; on the lower part of their Bodies they wear a Paan, which often is three or four times as long as that of the Men: This they wind around their Waſte, and bind it on with a Fillet of red Cloth, or ſomething elſe about half Ell broad and two Ells long, to make it ſit cloſe to the Body, both Ends of the Fillet hanging out on their Paan; which in Ladies of Quality is adorned with Gold and Silver-lace: On the upper-part of their Body they caſt a Veil of Silk or ſome other fine ſort of Stuff; whilſt their Arms are beautified with Rings of Gold, Silver and Ivory. Theſe Female *Negroes*, I can aſſure you, are ſo well ſkilled in their Faſhions, that they know how to dreſs themſelves up ſufficiently tempting to allure ſeveral *Europeans*; but their greateſt Power is over thoſe who make no difference betwixt White and Black, eſpecially when the former Colour is not to be found.

Having done with their Cloaths, let us ſee how they educate their Children; with which the Men never trouble themſelves in the leaſt, nor the Women much indeed: The Mother gives the Infant ſuck for two or three Years; which over, and they able to go, then 'tis, turn out Brutes; if it be hungry ſhe gives it a piece of dry Bread, and ſends it abroad where-ever it pleaſes, either to the Market, or to the Sea-ſide to learn to ſwim, or any where elſe; no Body looks after it; nor is it any Bodies buſineſs to hinder its Progreſs. Theſe Children are as well contented with dry Bread, as ours with all manner of Delicacies, they neither think of nor know any Delicacies; nor are their Mothers troubled with them, but do their Buſineſs undiſturbed: When, on the other ſide, if our Children can but go alone, we are continually perplexed with Thouſands of Fears of ſome or other ill Accidents befalling them.

Child-bearing is here as little troubleſome as the Men can wiſh; here is no long Lying-in, nor expenſive

penſive Goſſipping or Groaning-Feaſts: I once happened to be near the Place where a *Negroe* Woman was delivered of two Children in the ſpace of one quarter of an Hour; and when ſhe ſeemed moſt uneaſie I found 'twas not ſufficient to urge any Shrieks or Cries from her; but the very ſame Day I ſaw her go to the Sea-ſide to waſh her ſelf, without ever thinking of returning to her Bed. And indeed moſt Women are here equally eaſie in this Particular, tho' it happens (but that is very ſeldom) that a Woman is obliged by Illneſs to keep her Bed ſome Days. Here is no Proviſions made for Linnen or any Neceſſaries for the New-born Infant; and yet all its Limbs grow vigorous and proportionate as in *Holland*; except only that they have larger Navels than ordinary with us: But this is the Mother's Fault. If Child-bearing were in all Particulars ſo eaſie in our Country——But no more of this leaſt you ſhould tell your Lady, and ſhe bring the *Dutch* Women about my Ears, and 'tis not very adviſeable to anger them. But to return to our Subject; the Child is no ſooner born than the Prieſt (here called *Feticher* or *Confoe*) is ſent for, who binds a parcel of Ropes and Coral, and other Traſh about the Head, Body, Arms and Legs of the Infant: After which he Exorciſes, according to their accuſtomed manner; by which they believe it is armed againſt all Sickneſs and ill Accidents: And doubtleſs this is as effectual as if done by the Pope himſelf. By this you may obſerve what Power the Prieſts have over evil Spirits: But when I come to deſcribe the Marriage and married Lives of the *Negroes*, I ſhall preſent you with ſomething more concerning Child-bearing; and at preſent proceed, only informing you that theſe Ropes and Traſh ſerve the Children inſtead of Cloaths commonly 'till they are ſeven or eight Years of Age; at which Period they pride themſelves in a neceſſary Lappet of half an Ell of Stuffs.

If

If the Father is a Fiſherman or Husbandman, and the Child a Male, he breeds him up to his Vocation very early: And the Child now beginning to find that he muſt ſoon ſhift for himſelf, he is ſure to ſecure all that a convenient Opportunity will give him leave againſt that time, which his Parents never contradict.

I have hinted with what ſorry and how little Food the *Negroes* content their Children; which would hardly be poſſible if they fared deliciouſly themſelves. But they are not guilty of this ſort of Intemperance, but live rather too ſoberly, Two Pence a Day being ſufficient to diet one of them. Their common Food is a Pot full of Millet boiled to the Conſiſtence of Bread, or inſtead of that Jambs and Potatoes; over which they pour a little Palm-Oyl, with a few boiled Herbs, to which they add a ſtinking Fiſh. This they eſteem a nice Diſh; for 'tis but ſeldom they can get the Fiſh and Herbs: As for Oxen, Sheep, Hens, or other Fleſh, they only buy that for Holy-Days: Of which more in another place. The *Negroes* are not ſo ſparing in their Diet becauſe they don't deſire better Food, of which we have ſufficient Proof when they eat with us, for they are then ſure to ſatiate themſelves with the beſt at the Table at that rate, as if they were laying in for three Days. Nor is it for want of Money that they live thus, but only out of pure-forbid Covetouſneſs.

I have been ſometimes of Opinion that they thought all dear Things unwholſome. The Diet I have deſcribed is that of the Commonalty; nor do the Rich fare much better: They allow themſelves a little more Fiſh, and a few more Herbs. But for an extraordinary Diſh they take Fiſh, a handful of Corn, as much Dough, and ſome Palm-Oyl, which they boil together in Water; and this they call *Mallaget*; and is, I can aſſure you, a Lordly Entertainment amongſt them; and, to ſpeak truth, 'tis

no

no very diſagreeable Food to thoſe who are uſed to it, and is very wholeſom in this Country.

Though the *Negroes* eat ſo poorly and ſo little, they drink the more, being great Lovers of ſtrong Liquor, and let the World go how it will, they muſt have Brandy in the Morning and Palm-Wine in the Afternoon; and he that hath one Penny in Money thirſteth after three Pennyworth of Drink, which is welcome to them Night and Day; and we are forced to give ſtrict Orders to our Men to watch our Cellars at Night, for they know too well how to get at them. They are ſo beſotted to ſtrong Liquors and Tobacco, that you may equally entruſt Bacon to a Cat, as either of them within their Power. The Women are as guilty of this Vice as the Men; and, as if it were a Vertue, their Children are taught it at the Age of three or four Years.

The Salutations and Civilities of the *Negroes* claim a place here, as being remarkably peculiar. Upon accidentally meeting each other, the Salutation is pulling off the Hat or Cap, or uncovering the Head, amongſt thoſe *Negroes* who converſe with us; but the Inland People don't eſteem the uncovering of the Head for any ſign of Reſpect. Next, they ask after each other's Welfare; but not like our manner, by enquiring after one another's Health; but the firſt Queſtion is, *How did you ſleep?* To which the Reply is, *Very well:* And the other returns the Queſtion to the Firſt, who if he hath ſlept well tells him ſo. From whence we may obſerve, that the *Negroes* conceive good ſound Sleep to be the moſt neceſſary Preſervative of Health. When one *Negroe* is viſited by another, he takes his Gueſt by the Hand, and knipping his two middle Fingers together, he bids him welcome: This is the Ceremony in uſe if this be his firſt Viſit; but if he hath been there before, and is returned again, he expreſſeth his Welcome by telling him, *You went out and*

are

are returned, intimating they wiſh him good Fortune; to which he anſwers, *I am come again:* And this paſſeth current on both ſides for refined Civility. They are very obligingly civil when they receive Viſits from a Perſon who lives in another Country. As ſoon as the Complements are paſſed, the Wife, or a She-Slave, brings Water, Greaſe or Ointment to waſh and anoint the Stranger, herein agreeing with the ancient times, who were accuſtomed to waſh and anoint the Feet of their Gueſts.

The Viſits of Kings and thoſe of the beſt Rank, are accompanied with ſeveral odd Ceremonies: For inſtance; when a Lord or King of a Town is advanced very near to, or reaches that King's Town he intends the Honour of a Viſit to, he diſpatches one of his Attendants to complement and adviſe him of his coming; who on the other ſide is ſure to ſend back a Meſſenger of his own with his Ambaſſador, to complement and aſſure him of a hearty Welcome. While they are on their way, the King or General ranges all his Soldiers in Battel-Array, in the Market-place, or before his Palace; theſe being frequently about three or four hundred Men, who ſit down expecting the Approach of their Gueſt; who to expreſs his State and Grandeur the moſt effectually, takes care to advance but ſlowly, and is attended by a great number of armed Men, who leaping and dancing alſo make a diſmal Military Noiſe.

Having at laſt reached the Place where the other ſits expecting him, he doth not make directly towards him, but detaches all his Un-armed People of Faſhion to preſent their Hands by way of Salutation to the other's Men, that are next or around him, as well as to himſelf: After all which at laſt the two Kings or Generals, armed with Shields, make their mutual Approaches; and if the Viſitant be of higher Rank than himſelf, or he deſigns to honour him with an extraordinary Reception, he embraces and bids

bids him welcome three times ſucceſſively: But if his Viſitant be below him, he welcomes him by barely thrice preſenting his Hand to him and filliping his middle Finger, which is done in three ſucceſſive Advances; which being ended, the Gueſt and his Attendants ſit down oppoſite to the other, expecting him to come and welcome him and his Followers; which is alſo ſoon after done with three circular Advances: After which he returns to his place and ſits down, ſending Perſons to ſalute and welcome the reſt of his Viſitant's Troop, to ask after their Health and the Intent of their coming; which the Chief generally anſwers by Meſſengers of his own. Theſe mutual Ceremonies frequently laſt an Hour or two, or 'till the Entertainer riſes and obliges his Gueſt to go into his Houſe, where he is preſented by the King and the great Men of the Town with Sheep, Fowl, Jammes, or whatever is agreeable: And thus ended this tedious Salutation, which I have ſpent too much time in deſcribing; but I hope you will not be tired with it, for in order to abridge it I have omitted ſeveral Circumſtances.

In the Beginning of this Letter I told you the *Negroes* were very idle and not eaſily prevailed on to work, as well as that they had very few Manual Arts: All which indeed are imployed chiefly in the making of Wooden or Earthen Cups, Troughs, matting of Chairs, making of Copper Ointment Boxes, and Arm-Rings of Gold, Silver or Ivory, with ſome other Traſh. Their chief Handicraft, with which they are beſt acquainted being the Smithery; for with their ſorry Tools they can make all ſorts of War-Arms that they want, Guns only excepted; as well as whatever is required in their Agriculture and Houſe-keeping. They have no Notion of Steel, and yet they make their Sables and all cutting Inſtruments: Their principal Tools are a kind of hard Stone inſtead of an Anvil; a pair of Tongs, and a ſmall pair of Bellows, with three or more Pipes; which

which blow very ſtrong, and are an Invention of their own. Theſe are moſt of their Arts, beſides that of making of *Fetiche*'s; which I have before informed you of: But their moſt artful Works are the fine Gold and Silver Hat-bands which they make for us; the Thread and Contexture of which is ſo fine, that I queſtion whether our *European* Artiſts would not be put to it to imitate them: And indeed if they could, and were no better paid than the *Negroes*, they would be obliged to live on dry Bread.

You muſt not take it ill that this Letter is filled up with a Medley of all ſorts of Subjects; that, according to our Proverb, *I jump from the Ox to the Aſs*; for I uſually write what firſt occurs to my Memory. Having once mentioned their Navigation, which is not very conſiderable, I ſhall acquaint you they uſe a ſort of Boats called *Canoas*; the largeſt of which are about thirty Foot long and ſix broad: From this ſize they go down to the ſmalleſt ſort, which are about thirteen or fourteen Foot long and three or four broad. The biggeſt of theſe being capable of carrying a reaſonable Merchant-Man's Boat Lading; we generally uſe them in the tranſportation of our Goods from Place to Place: They are rowed in proportion to their ſize, by two, three, five, ſeven, nine, eleven or fifteen Rowers; which when they exceed two, muſt always be an odd Number, becauſe they are obliged to ſit in Couples, and an odd one is requiſite to ſteer. Inſtead of Oars they uſe a ſort of Paddles made like a Spade, having a Handle about the ſame Length; with which paddling the Water with an under-hand ſtroke, they keep the *Canoa* in a very ſwift Courſe. With the leaſt ſort of *Canoas*, with two or three Men in each, they generally go a fiſhing; which leads me to their Fiſhing-Tackling; conſiſting of great and ſmall Hooks; alſo Harping-Irons, which they uſe when they have hook'd a great Fiſh: They are beſides furniſhed with Caſting as well as other large Nets; which

which laſt they plant in the Sea over Night, and draw them in the Morning; when they are frequently full of all ſorts of Fiſh: But if a Sword-fiſh, or any other ſuch rough Gueſt happens to get in the Net, 'tis ſure to be torn in pieces with the Sword's Snout: But this Damage is eaſily prevented if the *Negroes* are timely informed of it; for they go two or three *Canoas* in Company well furniſhed with Harping-Irons; and conſidering they greedily eat this ſort of Fiſh, if they can but take him, he makes amends for two or three broken Nets.

I ſhall here ſay nothing of their Agriculture; not only becauſe I have already touched upon it, but by reaſon I hope for a better Opportunity of treating that Subject.

Though the Gold Coaſt is not extended above ſixty Miles in length, yet we find there ſeven or eight ſeveral Languages, ſo different that three or four of them are interchangeably unintelligible to any but the reſpective Natives: The *Negroes* of *Junmore*, ten Miles above *Axim*, cannot underſtand thoſe of *Egira*, *Abocroe*, *Ancober* and *Axim*: There is indeed a vaſt difference in their Languages. That of *Axim* is a very diſagreeable brutal Sound; that of *Ante* very different from it, though not much more beautiful: But more ſhocking is that of *Acra*, not having the leaſt Similitude with any of the reſt. The other Coaſt *Negroes*, thoſe of *Aquamboe* only excepted, generally underſtand one another: But the Inland *Negroes* is by much the pleaſanteſt and moſt agreeable; I mean thoſe of *Dinkira*, *Akim*, *Acanny* and *Adom*; this Difference is eaſily diſcernable to a Perſon but the leaſt acquainted with their Languages, and appears as that betwixt *Brabanders* and Foreigners: And if the *Negroes*, which we daily converſe with, who live about our Forts, expreſſed themſelves as agreeably as the others, 'twould be no difficult matter to learn their Language in two or three Years, which we find at preſent we can ſcarce

ſcarce do in ten, at leaſt not in any ſort of Perfection. Some of us, amongſt which I dare reckon my ſelf, have made ſuch a Progreſs, that we underſtand the greateſt part of it, though we can hardly hit the Pronunciation. The Sound of ſome Words is ſo ſtrange, that though we have often endeavoured to expreſs them with our *European* Letters, yet we have never been able to do it; and the *Negroes* can neither write nor read, and conſequently have no uſe of Letters; which renders it impoſſible for us to trace their Faults. Dr. *Dapper*, who never was here, hath adventured to expreſs their Words; which, though I may pretend to ſome Knowledge of their Languages, I dare not attempt, being aſſured I ſhall not ſucceed much better than he.

Could the *Negroes*, as I have ſaid, either read or write, we ſhould be able to learn their Tongues ſpeedily by obſerving the Letters which expreſſed each Thing; but having no other Aſſiſtance than the bare Sound, I think 'tis Folly to attempt farther. Wherefore, Sir, I hope you'll expect no more on this Head.

I remember to have met with ſome Hints in a certain Author tending to a Deſcription of ſeveral Noble Families; but in all the time of my Reſidence here, I have not been able to diſcover what ſort of People theſe were who put any value upon the Nobility of Families: I ſhall not take up much of your Time in Enquiries what difference there is betwixt one *Negroe* and another, or why one is more eſteemed than another; for if I ſhould dwell never ſo long on this Subject, the Reſult is, only the richeſt Man is the moſt honoured, without the leaſt regard to Nobility.

I have obſerved five Degrees of Men amongſt the *Negroes*; the firſt of which are their Kings or Captains, for the Word is here *Synonymous*.

The ſecond, their *Cabocero*'s, or Chief Men; which reducing to our manner of Expreſſion, we ſhould

ſhould be apt to call them Civil Fathers; whoſe Province is only to take care of the Welfare of the City or Village, and to appeaſe any Tumult.

The third ſort are thoſe who have acquired a great Reputation by their Riches, either devolved on them by Inheritance, or gotten by Trade. And theſe are the Perſons which ſome Authors have repreſented as Noblemen; but whether they are in the right or not, ſhall hereafter plainly appear.

The fourth are the common People imployed in the Tillage of Wines, Agriculture and Fiſhing.

The fifth and laſt are the Slaves, either ſold by their Relations, taken in War, or come ſo by Poverty.

Theſe five being the only Degrees which are to be found amongſt the *Negroes*; let us enquire by what means they arrive at any of the three firſt.

Firſt, The Dignity of King or Captain in moſt of theſe Countries, deſcends Hereditarily from Father to Son, and in defect of Iſſue, to the next Male-Heir; though ſometimes ſo much regard is had to his Riches in Slaves and Money, that he who is plentifully ſtored with theſe, is often preferred to the Right Heir.

The Inauguration of a King is not clogged with many pompous Ceremonies; for Coronations and Coronation Oaths being here equally unknown, the new King is ſhewn to the People, and ſometimes carried through his Territories; and the whole Affair terminates in one merry Day: But in caſe of Competitorſhip, when two pretend to that Dignity at the ſame time; for Confirmation of the Loyalty of their Followers, each Pretender obliges his reſpective Party to an Oath of Allegiance; without this happens all things run very ſmoothly, ſome Offerings only made, as uſually here on all ſolemn Occaſions. The principal Men or *Cabocero*'s, are commonly limited to a ſet Number; but ſome of them dying, and the Vacancies not filling, when

upon aſſembling together they find their Number too ſmall, they chooſe out of the Commonalty Perſons well advanced in Years to compleat their Number, (for young Men are ſeldom admitted into this Honourable Aſſembly,) who are obliged to expreſs their Gratitude to their Electing Brethren by a Preſent of a Cow and ſome Drink; after which they are lawfully admitted and confirmed. The Cuſtom of *Axim* obliges the Candidate for this Dignity to be a Native of that Country living at *Axim*, at leaſt keeping a Houſe there, inhabited by one of his Wives, or ſome of his Family, and ſometimes reſiding there himſelf; which is ſomewhat like our being obliged to keep Fire and Light to preſerve our Right of Citizens in *Holland*. If there be one alone, or ſeveral, he or they are all brought to our Fort and preſented to our Factor, with a Requeſt that they may be admitted into their Society; who, if he hath nothing to object againſt him, adminiſters an Oath to him on the Bible, obliging him to be and remain true to the *Netherlanders*, and to aid and aſſiſt them to the utmoſt of his Power againſt all their Enemies whatſoever, whether *Europeans* or *Negroes*, and deport himſelf on all Occaſions as a Loyal Subject: After which he takes an Oath, not unlike the former, reſpecting his own Nation; both which Oaths are confirmed by an Imprecation, *That God would ſtrike him dead if he ſwore contrary to his Intentions, or doth not keep his Oath*; in farther Confirmation of which the Bible is held to his Breaſt and laid on his Head; which are the Ceremonies uſed to render the Oath Obligatory: This done, the Factor having regiſtred his Name, acknowledges him a Member of their Aſſembly, and admits him to all the Rights, Privileges and Advantages appendant thereto; and having made the due Preſents to his Brethren, he is a *Caboceer* during his Life. In other Places on the Coaſt the Election of a *Caboceer* is ſomewhat different; but it being

being ſo well regulated at *Axim*, I ſhall content my ſelf with deſcribing that only.

The third ſort of *Negroes* are thoſe enriched either by Inheritance or Trade; who, to acquire a Reputation and great Name amongſt their Fellow-Citizens, buy about ſeven ſmall Elephants Teeth, which they make into blowing Horns; upon which they cauſe their Family to be taught all ſorts of Tunes uſual, according to the extravagant Courſe of the Country: Which when they have learned, they inform all their Relations and Acquaintance that they intend to ſhew their Blowing-Horns publickly, that they may come and make merry with them for ſeveral Days together; whilſt they, their Wives and Slaves appear with as much Pomp and Splendour as is poſſible, borrowing Gold and Coral of their Friends to make the greater Show, and diſtributing Preſents amongſt them: So that this extravagant Ceremony becomes very expenſive. This Initiatory Feſtival being over they are free to blow upon their Horns at pleaſure, which none are permitted who have not thus aggrandized themſelves; but if they are inclined to divert themſelves are obliged to borrow them. How contradictory is the Courſe of Things in this World! In ſome places Men are obliged to beg hard and make Intereſt for Horns, whilſt they come home to the Houſes of others as unexpected as undeſired.

A *Negro* thus far advanced in Honour, uſually makes himſelf Maſter of firſt one and then another Shield: Of which he makes a Shew as publick and pompous as that of the Horns; and is obliged to lye the firſt Night with all his Family in Battle Array in the open Air; intimating that he will not be afraid of any Danger or Hardſhip in Defence of his People. After which he paſſes the next and the remaining Days of the Feaſt, which are generally about eight, in Shooting, and Martial-Exerciſes, as well as Dancing and all ſorts of Mirth;

himſelf, his Wives and Family being as richly dreſt as they poſſibly can; and all that he hath in the World expoſed to publick View, and removed from Place to Place. But this Feſtival is not ſo expenſive as the former; for inſtead of making Preſents, as uſual in that, he here on the contrary receives very valuable Preſents; and when he deſigns to divert himſelf, or go to the War, he is permitted to carry two Shields: A Favour not allowed to any who hath not thus qualified himſelf.

Theſe are the Nobility which Authors boaſt of on this Coaſt; but that in reality they are not ſo, is plain, becauſe no Perſon can Enoble himſelf, but muſt be ſo by Birth, or by Creation of another: In both which they are deficient; for by Birth they are only Slaves, and conſequently widely diſtant from Nobleſs, and they owe their Advance only to themſelves and their Money; their Port of Honour here being always open to him who is rich enough to bear the Expence. Beſides, in other Places, Nobility engages thoſe honoured with it firmly in the publick Service of their King or Country; which theſe are not the leaſt concerned for, applying themſelves to nothing but Trade: But if any are fond of having them Gentlemen and Noblemen, I ſhall let them remain ſo. And it will not a little redound to my Honour, that I have for ſeveral Years ſucceſſively been waited on by one of theſe Noblemen in the Capacity of a Footman, without having the leaſt Reſpect to his Nobility.

The fourth and fifth ſort need no other account to be given of them, than that they are common People and Slaves.

Theſe Blowing-Horns naturally lead me to a Deſcription of the Muſical Inſtruments with which they chiefly divert themſelves. But I ſhall firſt inform you that the *Negroes* in building their Villages have not the leaſt regard to the Pleaſantneſs of the Situation. With us indeed it is uſual, and is doubt-

doubtleſs very reaſonable to put a high value upon a fine Proſpect and pleaſant Walks; but theſe lumpiſh Wretches frequently chooſe a dry and diſagreeable place to build on; neglecting at the ſame time well planted Hills, charming Vallies, and beautiful Rivers; which they have in great abundance, and ſerve them for no uſe, nor afford them any Diverſion. They are full as indifferent and negligent in the making of their Roads, they being generally as rough and perverſe as the People themſelves. A Road which need not be above two Miles in length, frequently becomes three by its crookedneſs and unevenneſs; and though they have been often made ſenſible of this Inconvenience by us, and a very little Trouble would mend them, yet they will not alter them; the Way once made muſt ſtill remain, though it leads them twice as far out of the way.

Their Muſical Inſtruments are various, and very numerous, but all of them yield a horrid and barbarous Shocking Sound: The chief of them are the mentioned Horns, made, as I have already told you, of ſmall Elephant's Teeth; though not ſo very ſmall but ſome of them weigh betwixt twenty and thirty Pounds, and others more: To adorn theſe they cut in them ſeveral Images of Men and Beaſts; and that ſo finely that it ſeems to be done literally in Obedience to the Second Commandment; for indeed 'tis difficult to diſtern whether they are moſt like Men or Beaſts; at the lower End of theſe Horns is a piece of Rope coloured Black with Hens or Sheeps Blood, and at the ſmall End is a ſquare Hole; at which by blowing they produce a ſort of extravagant Noiſe; which they reduce to a ſort of Tone and Meaſure, and vary as they pleaſe: Sometimes they blow upon theſe Horns ſo well, that tho' it is not agreeable, yet it is not ſo horrid as to require a whole Bale of Cotton annually to ſtop ones Ears, as *Focquenbrog* has it.

Their ſecond ſort of Inſtruments are their Drums; of which there are about ten ſeveral ſorts, but moſt of them are excavated Trees covered at one end with a Sheeps-skin, and left open at the other; which they ſet on the Ground like a Kettle-Drum, and when they remove it, they hang it by a String about their Necks: They beat on theſe Drums with two long Sticks made Hammer-faſhion, and ſometimes with a ſtreight Stick or their bare Hands; all which Ways they produce a diſmal and horrid Noiſe: The Drums being generally in conſort with the blowing of the Horns; which afford the moſt charming Aſſes Muſick that can be imagined: To help out this they always ſet a little Boy to ſtrike upon a hollow piece of Iron with a piece of Wood; which alone makes a Noiſe more deteſtable than the Drums and Horns together.

Of late they have invented a ſort of ſmall Drums, covered on both Sides with a Skin, and extended to the Shape of an Hour-Glaſs: The Noiſe they afford is very like that our Boys make with their Pots they play with on Holy-days, with this Difference only, that theſe have Iron-Rings, which makes ſome alteration in the Sound. 'Twould be ridiculous to tire you with all the Inſtruments of the *Negroes:* I ſhall therefore take leave of this Subject, by deſcribing the beſt they have; which is a hollow piece of Wood of two Hands breadth long, and one broad; from the hinder-part of this a Stick comes croſs to the fore-part, and upon the Inſtrument are five or ſix extended Strings: So that it bears ſome ſort of Similitude to a ſmall Harp, or if you will, is not very unlike the Modern Greek Muſical Inſtruments, and affords by much the moſt agreeable Sound of any they have here. Having ſaid enough on this Subject, let us turn our ſelves to another.

What is moſt commendable amongſt the *Negroes*, is, that we find no poor amongſt them who beg; for

for though they are never ſo wretchedly poor, they never beg: The Reaſon of which is, that when a *Negroe* finds he cannot ſubſiſt, he binds himſelf for a certain Summ of Money, or his Friends do it for him; and the Maſter to whom he hath obliged himſelf keeps him in all Neceſſaries, ſetting him a ſort of Task, which is not in the leaſt ſlaviſh, being chiefly to defend his Maſter on occaſion, and in ſowing-time to work as much as he himſelf pleaſes. So that, as I have before told you, here are no Beggars obliged to be ſo by Poverty: But ſhameleſs Beggars, without the leaſt Neceſſity, are ſo plentiful that they all undiſtinguiſhably deſerve that Name: A King himſelf is not aſhamed to beg; and that for ſuch mean Things as he might buy for one Penny or Two-pence; they are ſo ſcandalous importunate, that 'tis impoſſible to get from them without giving them ſomething.

Though I have been tedious in this, I hope you will pardon it; for I muſt own my Itch of Scribbling is not yet over, and I cannot help giving you an account of a wonderful and extraordinary ſort of People, I mean the *Tapœyers* or *Mulattoes*; a Race begotten by *Europeans* upon the *Negroe* or *Mulatto*-Women. This Baſtard Strain is made up of a parcel of profligate Villains, neither true to the *Negroes* nor us, nor indeed dare they truſt one another; ſo that you very rarely ſee them agree together. They aſſume the Name of Chriſtians, but are as great Idolaters as the *Negroes* themſelves. Moſt of the Women are publick Whores to the *Europeans*, and private ones to the *Negroes*; ſo that I can hardly give them a Character ſo bad as they deſerve. I can only tell you whatever is in its own Nature worſt in the *Europeans* and *Negroes*, is united in them; ſo that they are the ſink of both. The Men, moſt of which are Soldiers in our Service, are cloathed as we are; but the Women prink up themſelves in a particular manner: Thoſe of any Faſhi-

on wear a fine Shift, and over that a ſhort Jacket of Silk or Stuff, without Sleeves; which reaches from under the Arms to their Hipps, faſtened only at the Shoulders: Upon their Heads they wear ſeveral Caps one upon the other; the uppermoſt of which is of Silk, pleated before, and round at the Top to make it ſit faſt; upon all which they have a ſort of Fillet which comes twice or thrice around the Head. Thus dreſſed they make no ſmall Shew: On the lower part of their Body they are cloathed as the *Negroe*-Women are; and thoſe who are poor are only diſtinguiſhable by their Dreſs, they going naked in the upper-part of their Body.

The whole Brood, when young, are far from handſome, and when old, are only fit to fright Children to their Beds. If a Painter were obliged to paint Envy, I could wiſh him no better Original to draw after than an old *Mulatto*-Woman. In proceſs of time their Bodies become ſpeckled with white, brown and yellow Spots, like the Tygers, which they alſo reſemble in their barbarous Nature: But I ſhall here leave them, for fear it may be thought that I am prejudiced by hatred againſt them; but ſo far from that, that there is not a ſingle Perſon who hath any thing to do with them, but he muſt own they are not worth ſpeaking to. Well, as diſagreeable as it is to be obliged to ſuch Company, I have this ſatisfaction, that it cannot be ſo irkſome to me here, as it will be agreeable to me to tell you in few Months, *Viva voce*, how much I am Yours, *&c.*

LET-

LETTER X.

Deſcribing the ſeveral Religions of the Negroes. *Their Opinions of a Deity, and different Sentiments concerning the Creation of Man: Manner of ſolemn Swearing on ſeveral Occaſions. The Manner of asking Queſtions of their Idol; how it is managed, and the Frauds of their Prieſts on that account. How, and on what Occaſions, Publick and Solemn Exerciſes of Religion are here enjoined. Every private Perſon hath his particular Falſe God and Holydays, which he appoints in Honour of that; the Offerings to it. Which would be the moſt effectual way to convert the* Negroes *to Chriſtianity. Of their forbidden Meats: Their Opinions concerning their Falſe Gods. The Reward of Good and Evil. Of Murther and Adultery, &c. wherefore amongſt them. Various Opinions of a future Life. Miraculous Prieſts living in the Inland Country. What the* Negroes *think of Devils, Conjurors and Apparitions. How they eject Devils. Only two Feſtivals among them. The Difference betwixt Fortunate and Unfortunate Days. They are very Superſtitious. An Inſtance thereof.*

SIR,

MY laſt was very long; and if I treat the Subject largely, this will not be much ſhorter: For the Religion of the *Negroes*, of which I deſign to ſpeak, will afford Matter enough for a Book alone, by reaſon of the numerous and different ſorts of it: For there is no Village or Town, nay, I had almoſt ſaid, no private Family, which doth not differ from another on this Head: But not thinking it worth while to recount all the various Opinions, I ſhall therefore paſs them over, and only ſpeak of their publick Religion and Worſhip; in which they almoſt all agree.

Almoſt all the Coaſt *Negroes* believe in one true God, to whom they attribute the Creation of the World, and all things in it, though in a crude indigeſted Manner, they not being able to form a juſt Idea of a Deity. They are not obliged to themſelves nor the Tradition of their Anceſtors for their Opinion, rude as it is, but to their daily Converſation with the *Europeans*, who from time to time have continually

tinually endeavoured to implant this Notion in them. There are two Reaſons which confirm me in this Sentiment: Firſt, that they never make any Offerings to God, nor call upon him in time of need; but in all their Difficulties, they apply themſelves to their *Fetiche* (of which more hereafter) and pray to him for Succeſs in their Undertakings: The Second is, the different Opinions of ſome of them concerning the Creation; for a great part of the *Negroes* believe that Man was made by *Ananſie*, that is, a great Spider; the reſt attribute the Creation of Man to God, which they aſſert to have happened in the following manner: They tell us, that in the beginning God created Black as well as White Men; thereby not only hinting but endeavouring to prove that their Race was as ſoon in the World as ours; and to beſtow a yet greater Honour on themſelves, they tell us, that God having created theſe two ſorts of Men, offered two ſorts of Gifts, *viz.* Gold, and the Knowledge or Arts of Reading and Writing, giving the Blacks the firſt Election, who choſe Gold, and left the Knowledge of Letters to the White. * God granted their Requeſt, but being incenſed at their Avarice, reſolved that the Whites ſhould for ever be their Maſters, and they obliged to wait on them as their Slaves. Others again affirm, that Man at his firſt Creation was not ſhaped as at preſent; but that thoſe Parts which ſerve for the Diſtinction of Sexes in Men and Women, were placed more in view for the convenience of Propagation: What think you, Sir, is not this a ridiculous Notion? Would it not be very obliging to the *Turks* to ſometimes gratifie their beſtial Appetites with Women in an unnatural Manner, not to mention their *Sodomy* with Men?

* *The* Negroes *believe, that there is no Gold in any other Countries beſides their own; and that no Blacks have any Knowledge or the Art of Letters; nor have they any Notion of the extent of the World, but what they recollect from our Informations.*

I have

I have found very few *Negroes* of this Sentiment; but having asked thoſe who are its Aſſertors, when the Shape of Man was altered to its preſent State. They replied, that God had done it out of reſpect to Modeſty when the World became ſo well Peopled that the preſent Shape was ſufficient to preſerve the Race of Mankind. Others on the Gold Coaſt would perſwade us, that the firſt Men came out of Holes and Pits, like that at preſent in a great Rock on the Sea, near our Fort of *Acra*. But 'tis time to ſtop my Hand; for if I ſhould particularize all their Notions concerning the Creation, the Moon and Stars, inſtead of being ſhort, I ſhould grow inſupportably tedious. I ſhall only tell you, that Father *Kirchen* would not find it very difficult to perſwade them that the Planets are peopled, or at leaſt the Moon: for they have already diſcovered a Fellow beating a Drum in her.

I promiſed juſt now to explain the Word *Fetiche*, which is uſed in various Senſes, *Fetiche* or *Boſſum* in the *Negroe* Language, derives it ſelf from their Falſe God, which they call *Boſſum*. Are they inclined to make Offerings to their Idols, or deſire to be informed of ſomething by them? they cry out, Let us make *Fetiche*; by which they expreſs as much, as let us perform our Religious Worſhip, and ſee or hear what our God ſaith. In like manner, if they are injured by another, they make *Fetiche* to deſtroy him in the following manner: they cauſe ſome Victuals and Drink to be Exorciſed by their *Feticheer* or Prieſt, and ſcatter it in ſome place which their Enemy is accuſtomed to paſs; firmly believing, that he who comes to touch this conjured Stuff ſhall certainly die ſoon after. Thoſe who are afraid of this coming to ſuch places, cauſe themſelves to be carried over them; for 'tis the wonderful Nature of this Exorciſed Traſh, that then it does not in the leaſt affect the Perſon, nor can it at all affect thoſe who carry him, or any Body elſe beſide him: So that though the Art

of

of poiſoning is a Favourite peculiar to the *Italians*, yet they have always found themſelves obliged to endanger the Innocent to come at the Guilty, and never yet could hit on ſo diſtinguiſhing and diſcreet a Poiſon as this of our *Negroes*; though I muſt confeſs I like that of the *Italians* ſo little, that I had rather walk over all that the *Negroes* can lay for me, than have any thing to do with theirs.

If they are robbed they make uſe of much the ſame means for the diſcovery and condign Puniſhment of the Thief: They are ſo obſtinately bigotted to this Opinion, that if you ſhould produce a hundred Inſtances of its Impotence, 'twould be impoſſible to alter their Sentiments, they having always ſomething ready on which to charge its contrary Succeſs. If any Perſon be caught ſtrowing this Poiſon, he is very ſeverely puniſhed, nay, ſometimes with Death, tho' it be on the laſt account of Thieving, which is here freely allowed. Obligatory Swearing they alſo call, making of *Fetiche's*; Is any Obligation to be confirmed, their Phraſe is, *Let us as a farther Confirmation make Fetiche's.* When they drink the *Oath-Draught*, 'tis uſually accompanied with an Imprecation, *that the Fetiche* may kill them if they do not perform the Contents of their Obligation. Every Perſon entring into any Obligation is obliged to drink this Swearing Liquor. When any Nation is hired to the Aſſiſtance of another, all the Chief ones are obliged to drink this Liquor, with an Imprecation, that their *Fetiche* may puniſh them with Death, if they do not aſſiſt them with utmoſt Vigour to extirpate their Enemy. But Oaths on this occaſion are ſo frequently taken and broken, that they themſelves have no great Opinion of them; beſides they have found out a way to abſolve themſelves from their Oaths, take the Money of thoſe who have hired them to the aſſiſtance, and act directly contrary to their Obligation: for having entred into this ſolemn Engagement or Oath, in the

pre-

preſence of their Prieſt; they doubt not in the leaſt but that it is in his Power to free them of the Obligation. This you will be apt to ſay looks a little like the Papacy; but I'll aſſure you 'tis in reality, as I have repreſented it. But of late Years ſome *Negroes* are ſo refined, that before they take their contradictory Oaths, they oblige the Prieſt to ſwear firſt, and drink the *Oath-Draught*, with an Imprecation, that the *Fetiche* ſhould puniſh him with Death, if he ever abſolved any Perſon from their Oath without the unanimous Conſent of all intereſted in that Contract. Oaths taken in this manner are generally kept unviolated and punctually peformed. If you aſk what Opinion the *Negroes* have of thoſe who falſify their Obligations confirmed by the Oath-drink; they believe the perjured Perſon ſhall be ſwelled by that Liquor 'till he burſts; or if that doth not happen, that he ſhall ſhortly die of a languiſhing Sickneſs: The firſt Puniſhment they imagine more peculiar to Women, who take this Draught to acquit themſelves of any Accuſation of Adultery; and if I may be allowed to make a Compariſon, this Drink ſeems very like the bitter Water adminiſtred to the Women in the Old Teſtament by way of Purgation from the Charge of Adultery. Thus in the Deſcription of the Religion of the *Negroes*, I find my ſelf inſenſibly fallen upon their Oaths; but ſince even that is a part of Religious Worſhip, I have ſome excuſe for purſuing that Subject yet a little farther. If any Perſon is ſuſpected of Thievery, and the Indictment is not clearly made out, he is obliged to clear himſelf by drinking the *Oath-Draught*, and to uſe the Imprecation, that the *Fetiche* may kill him if he be guilty of Thievery. The ſeveral ways of taking Oaths are ſo numerous, that I ſhould tire you as well as my ſelf with a Repetition of them: Wherefore I ſhall content my ſelf with adding only one eſteemed the moſt Solemn and Obligatory, which is only uſed on important Occaſions, and is in the following manner.

Each

Each Prieſt or *Fetichеer* hath his peculiar Idol, prepared and adjuſted in a particular and different manner, but moſt of them like the following Deſcription. They have a great Wooden Pipe filled with Earth, Oil, Blood, the Bones of dead Men and Beaſts, Feathers, Hair; and, to be ſhort, all ſorts of Excrementitious and filthy Traſh, which they do not endeavour to mould into any Shape, but lay it in a confuſed heap in the Pipe. The *Negroe* who is to take an Oath before this Idol, is placed directly oppoſite to it, and asks the Prieſt the Name of his Idol (each having a particular one;) of which being informed, he calls the *Fetiche* by its Name, and recites at large the Contents of what he deſigns to bind by an Oath, and makes it his Petitionary Requeſt that the Idol may puniſh him with Death if he ſwears falſly; then he goes round the Pipe and ſtands ſtill and ſwears a ſecond time in the ſame place and manner as before, and ſo a third time likewiſe: after which the Prieſt takes ſome of the mentioned Ingredients out of the Pipe; with which he touches the Swearer's Head, Arms, Belly and Legs, and holding it above his Head turns it three times round; then he cuts off a Bit of the Nail of one Finger in each Hand, of one Toe of each Foot, and ſome of the Hair of his Head, which he throws into the Pipe where the Idol is lodged: all which done the Oath is firmly Obligatory. But to turn to another Subject.

When the *Negroes* deſign to begin a War, to drive a Bargain, to Travel, or attempt any thing of Importance; their firſt Buſineſs is to conſult their Falſe God by the Prieſt, concerning the Event of their Undertaking, who very ſeldom propheſies Ill, but generally encourages them to hope for proſperous Succeſs; which they take on his Word, not doubting the Iſſue in the leaſt, and obſequiouſly perform all the Prieſt's Commands; which generally oblige them to offer up Sheep, Hogs, Fowls, Dogs and Cats

to

to their Idol; or at other times perhaps, Cloaths, Wine and Gold; by which the Prieſt is ſure to be the greateſt Gainer, for he ſweeps all to himſelf, only preſenting Garbage and the Excrements of the ſlaughtered Sacrifice to his God to divert himſelf withal: And thus, beſides the Money given him, he makes a ſhift to pay himſelf very well out of the Offerings for his ſmall Trouble.

If the Prieſt is inclined to oblige the Querent, the Queſtions are put to the Idol in his preſence, and generally in one of the two following Methods. The firſt way is by a bundle of about twenty ſmall bits of Leather: in the middle of which they bind ſome Traſh of the ſame Nature; with that they fill the mentioned Pipe: Some of theſe Ingredients promiſe good Succeſs, and others threaten the contrary. This Bundle the Prieſt ſhuffles together ſeveral times; and if thoſe which preſage a good Iſſue happen to come frequently together, he aſſures the Querent that his Undertaking ſhall end well. But 'tis here to be obſerved that the dextrous Prieſt can by ſlight, make which he pleaſes of the Leather come together; and that if he ever gives them an unlucky or diſcouraging Anſwer, 'tis only to extort more Offerings from them, on pretence of appeaſing the incenſed God, but in reality to redouble his own Perquiſites.

The ſecond way of conſulting their Idols, is by a ſort of wild Nuts; which they pretend to take up by gueſs and let fall again: after which they tell them, and form their Predictions from the Numbers falling even or odd. In ſhort, the Prieſts, who are generally ſly and crafty, encouraged by the ſtupid Credulity of the People, have all the opportunity in the World to impoſe the groſſeſt Abſurdities and fleece their Purſes; as they indeed do effectually. For if the Event confutes their Preſage, they never want an excuſe; the Sacred Rites were not carefully performed, this or that part of it was ſlubbered over

over or omitted, the God is therefore enraged, and 'tis for that reaſon the Affair hath ſucceeded ſo croſly. This is glibly ſwallowed. The Prieſt is never accuſed of Falſhood; if the whole Land be ruined, his Reputation remains ſecure an untouched: But if by chance his Auguries come to paſs, there is not in the World a Wiſer or Holyer Man, and he is ſure not to want his Reward.

Publick General Religious Exerciſes of a whole Nation or Town are cuſtomary on account of Unſeaſonableneſs or unfruitful Weather in Floods, or a great Drought: When the Chief of the Town or Nation aſſemble and adviſe with the Prieſt what courſe is moſt proper to remove the preſent publick Calamity; and what they order is immediately ridiculouſly commanded or forbidden through the Land by a publick Cryer; and whoever dares preſume to act contrary to this Order, is ſure to incur a large pecuniary Penalty. When their Fiſhery is at low Ebb, they make Offerings to the Sea: but this generally happens about *Auguſt* or *September*, when Experience tells them that a vaſt Quantity of Fiſh is commonly taken, and yet this is always believed an Effect of the Offering.

Almoſt every Village hath a ſmall appropriated Grove, where the Governours and chief People frequently repair to make their Offerings; either for the publick Good, or for themſelves. Theſe Groves are eſteemed Sacred, no Perſon preſuming to defile them, pluck, cut, or break off any Branches of Trees; who, beſides the accuſtomed Puniſhment, is not willing to lay himſelf under an univerſal Malediction.

Each particular Perſon hath his peculiar falſe God, which he or ſhe worſhips after their manner, on that Day of the Week on which he was born. This they call their *Boſſum*, or in their *Portugueſe Sancte-Day*, on which they drink no Palm-Wine before Sun-ſet: They are habited all in white, and as a Sign of Purity ſmeared with white Earth. Moſt

of

of the *Negroes*, eſpecially the Principal, have beſides this another weekly Day ſanctified to their *Fetiche*'s. On theſe Days they kill a Cock, and ſometimes, if they are rich, a Sheep, which they offer up to their God in Words alone; for they immediately fall upon it and tear it to pieces with their Fingers; taking it for granted, that 'tis ſufficient to ſay 'twas killed for him: And as he hath none of it, ſo the Owner, when a Sheep is killed on this Account, hath the leaſt ſhare of it; for his Friends and Acquaintance fall like a Dog upon a ſick Cow, each as greedily as narrowly watching his Opportunity of ſeizing a piece, which goes immediately to the Fire, foul or clean, 'tis no great matter, they are not very nice: The Guts they cut into ſmall pieces, and ſqueezing out the Excrement with their Fingers, they boil it together with the Lungs, Liver, and Heart, with a little Salt and Malaget, or *Guinea* Pepper, without waſhing it from the Blood. This they call *Eyntjeba*, and it's eſteemed the greateſt Delicacy that can be dreſſed up.

If it was poſſible to convert the *Negroes* to the Chriſtian Religion, the *Roman*-Catholicks would ſucceed better than we ſhould, becauſe they already agree in ſeveral particulars, eſpecially in their ridiculous Ceremonies; for do the *Romaniſts* abſtain one or two Days weekly from Fleſh; theſe have alſo their Days when they forbear Wine; which, conſidering they are very great Lovers of it, is ſomewhat ſevere. The *Romaniſts* have their allotted times for eating peculiar ſorts of Food, or perhaps wholly abſtaining from it, in which the *Negroes* out-do them; for each Perſon here is forbidden the eating of one ſort of Fleſh or other; one eats no Mutton, another no Goats-Fleſh, Beef, Swines-Fleſh, Wild-Fowl, Cocks with white Feathers, *&c.* This Reſtraint is not laid upon them for a limited time, but for their whole Lives: And if the *Romaniſts* brag of the Antiquities of their Eccleſiaſtical Commands; ſo if you ask the

Negroes why they do this, they will readily tell you, becauſe their Anceſtors did ſo from the beginning of the World, and it hath been handed down from one Age to another by Tradition. The Son never eats what the Father is reſtrained from, as the Daughter herein follows the Mother's Example; and this Rule is ſo ſtrictly obſerved amongſt them, that 'tis impoſſible to perſwade them to the contrary.

I have already informed you of the Signification of the Word *Fetiche*, that it is chiefly uſed in a Religious Senſe, or at leaſt is derived from thence: Before I proceed to inform you how they repreſent their Gods, I ſhall only hint that all things made in Honour of their falſe Gods, never ſo mean, are called, *Fetiche*: and hence alſo the Artificial Gold mentioned in my Sixth Letter derives its Name.

How their Gods are repreſented to them, or what Idea they form of them, I never yet could learn, becauſe indeed they do not know themſelves: What we are able to obſerve is, that they have a great number of Falſe Gods; that each Man, or at leaſt each Houſe-keeper, hath one; which they are perſwaded narrowly inſpects their Courſe of Life, and rewards good, and puniſhes wicked Men; but their Rewards conſiſt in the multiplicity of Wives and Slaves, and their Puniſhments in the want of them; though the moſt terrible Puniſhment they can imagine is Death; of which they are terribly afraid: And, indeed, 'tis this which inflames their Zeal in Religious Affairs, and occaſions their Abſtinence from forbidden Meats and Drinks, fearing they ſhould die if they but once taſted it. Murther, Adultery, Thievery, and all other ſuch like Crimes, are here accounted no Sins, becauſe they can expiate them with Money; which they cannot do in any other Miſ-deeds, which ſtill remain charged to their Account. Mr. *Frederick Cojet* deſcribing the Opinions of the Inhabitants of *Formoſa*, relates the ſame concerning them.

Thei

Their Notions of a future State are different; moſt of them believe that immediately after the Death of any Perſon he goes to another World, where he lives in the ſame Character as here, and makes uſe of all the Offerings of his Friends and Relations made here after his Death: But they have no Idea of future Rewards or Puniſhments, for the good or ill Actions of their paſt Life; except ſome of them, who take it for granted, that the Deceaſed are immediately conveyed to a famous River, ſituate in the Inland Country, called *Boſmanque*: (ſuppoſing this to be taken in a Spiritual Senſe, becauſe it viſibly appears that the Body is left with them.) 'Tis here their God enquires what ſort of Life they have lived: Have they religiouſly obſerved the Holy-days, dedicated to their God, abſtained from all forbidden Meats, and inviolably kept their Oaths? they are gently wafted over the River, to a Land abounding in all kinds of Happineſs, not unlike *Mahomet*'s Paradiſe: But if on the contrary the departed hath ſinned againſt any of the mentioned Rules, his God plunges him into the River, where he is drowned and buried in eternal Oblivion.

Others are perſwaded that after Death, they are tranſported to the Land of the Blanks or Whites, and changed into white Men: This is ſomewhat like the *Metempſychoſis* of *Pythagoras*, and ſerves to hint how much more honourable they account the white Men beyond themſelves.

The Inland *Negroes* inform thoſe Blacks who live amongſt us, that a great *Feticheer* or Prieſt lives in a very fine Houſe far In-land; of which they relate nothing but Miracles: They affirm, that the Winds and Weather are at his Command, and that he can change them at Pleaſure; that though his Houſe is without any Roof, yet it is always ſheltered from Rain; that he not only knows all Things paſt, but can as accurately foretel all future Events as if they were preſent before his Eyes, and cures all

ſorts of Diſtempers: In ſhort, he knows ſo much, and does ſuch wonderful Things, that Father *Marcus Avianus*, would be obliged to ſtand bare, and was indeed nothing compared with him. His Countrymen aſſert, that all thoſe near his Abode, muſt appear before and be examined by him; upon which if they are found to have led a good Life, he ſends them away in Peace to a happy Place: but if on the contrary, he kills them a ſecond time with a Club made on purpoſe for that uſe, and placed before his dwelling-Place, that it may always be ready at Hand. From whence you may eaſily infer, whether this *Negroe* is not incredibly reverenced and eſteemed by his Country-men; and indeed they look upon him as a ſort of Demi-God: So ſlyly hath this Arch-Cheat inſinuated this great Opinion of himſelf into the Minds of his Neighbours, that (this being no old Story, he at preſent living) they every Day relate freſh Miracles of him.

By this you may ſee, that the Conjurers and Miracle-Mongers are no ſtrange things amongſt the *Negroes*; they firmly believe in them, but in a different manner from our *European* ridiculous Opinioniſts; who are perſwaded no Conjurer can do any Feats without the help of the Devil: For on the contrary, the *Negroes* do not doubt but that 'tis a Gift of God, and though in reality 'tis a down-right Cheat, yet they, ignorant of the Fraud, ſwallow it as a Miracle, and above Humane Power; but that the Devil may not in the leaſt participate of the Honour, they aſcribe it all to God: And for my part, if there were any Men endow'd with ſuch Supernatural Qualities, I ſhould certainly agree with the *Negroes* in aſcribing it to God, and not to the Devil.

Since we are got on this Subject, I muſt not forget to inform you that the *Negroes* believe that there is a Devil, and that he frequently does them a great deal of Miſchief: But what Authors write, that they

they pray and make Offerings to him, is utterly falſe. If I miſtake not, I have read in *Oliver Dapper*, that the *Negroes* never eat or drink, without throwing ſome Portion of it to the Earth for the Devil: but this is a great Miſtake; 'tis true, indeed, that before they eat or drink they are accuſtomed to throw away ſome, but this is not for the Devil, they won't oblige him ſo far; 'tis for their falſe God, or ſometimes for their deceaſed Friend.

The Devil is annually baniſhed all their Towns with abundance of Ceremony, at an appointed time ſet apart for that end. I have twice ſeen it at *Axim*, where they make the greateſt ſtir about it. This Proceſſion is preceded by a Feaſt of eight Days, accompanied with all manner of Singing, Skipping, Dancing, Mirth and Jollity: In which time a perfect lampooning Liberty is allowed, and Scandal ſo highly exalted, that they may freely ſing of all the Faults, Villanies and Frauds of their Superiours as well as Inferiours, without Puniſhment, or ſo much as the leaſt interruption; and the only way to ſtop their Mouths is to ply them luſtily with Drink, which alters their Tone immediately, and turns their Satyrical Ballads into Commendatory Songs on the good Qualities of him who hath ſo nobly treated them.

On the eighth Day in the Morning they hunt out the Devil with a diſmal Cry, all running one after another, throwing of Excrements, Stones, Wood, or any thing they can come at, as thick as Hail at *Satan*'s Poſterious. When they have driven him far enough out of Town, they all return; and thus conclude their eight Days Divine or rather Diabolical Service. From hence we may obſerve, that they believe there are more Devils than one, becauſe he is driven out of above one hundred Towns at the ſame time. And to make ſure that he doth not return to their Houſes, the Women waſh and ſcour all their Wooden and Earthen Veſſels very neat, to free them from all Uncleanneſs and the Devil.

The *Negroes* of *Ante* alſo drive out the Devil in the ſame manner: But theſe poor Wretches are tormented with a worſe Devil, though they call him a God. This is a Giant, one ſide of his Body being ſound, the other rotten, which if any Perſon do but touch he dies immediately; (which I believe without the leaſt Scruple.) This over-grown Devil, or God, (for the Difference is not very great) they endeavour to appeaſe with Eatables; to which purpoſe thouſands of Pots or Troughs of Victuals are continually found ſtanding throughout the whole *Anteſe* Country; ſo that he muſt have a worſe than canine Appetite if he hath not his Belly full.

They ſtedfaſtly believe the Apparition of Spirits and Ghoſts, and that they frequently diſturb and terrifie ſome People: So that when any, but more eſpecially any conſiderable Perſon dies, they perplex one another with horrid Fears, proceeding from an Opinion that he appears for ſeveral Nights ſucceſſively near his late Dwelling.

They have no other Solemn Tmes or Feſtivals, beſides *that* when their Harveſt is compleated, which we call their *Fair*, and *that* of baniſhing the Devil.

Excepting what the *Negroes* have learned of the *Europeans*, they have no Notion of the Diviſions of the Year into Months and Weeks; but reckon their Time by the ſhining of the Moon; whence they likewiſe collect when it is proper to ſow: But that they have long been acquainted with the Diviſion of Months into Weeks and Days, ſeems very probable to me, by Reaſon each Day of the Week has its proper Name in their Language. Their *Sabbath* falls on our *Tueſday*, but in *Ante*, like that of the *Mahometans*, on *Friday*; and differs from other Days no otherwiſe, than that no Perſon is then permitted to Fiſh: but all other Works are allowed without the leaſt Interruption as freely as on other Days.

The Inland *Negroes* divide Time in a very ſtrange manner, into lucky and unlucky: In ſome Countries the

the great fortunate Time laſts nineteen, and the leſſer (which is different from the other) ſeven Days; and betwixt theſe are ſeven ill or unfortunate Days, which is a ſort of Vacation to them, for then they do not travel, till their Land, or undertake any thing of Conſequence, but remain altogether idle. The Inhabitants of *Aquamboe* are more bigotted in this particular than any of the reſt: for beſides that they will not reſolve concerning any Affairs on theſe Days, they will not willingly accept any Preſents made them, but ſend them back again, or at leaſt cauſe them to be kept in a certain place apart until the lucky Days come.

Who firſt ſettled this diſtinction of good and bad Days, I cannot determine; nor do I believe any Perſon can: All that I can conjecture of the Reaſon of them is, that perhaps ſome leading Man amongſt them might have been fortunate on the one, and unfortunate on the other; upon an obſervation of which he might reſolve to form it into a Rule, to which he would adjuſt the remainder of his Life, and that others conſequently following his Example, it grew firſt into a Cuſtom, and afterwards into a Law.

The Inhabitants of one Country differ very much from thoſe of another in this particular: This Nation accounting their happy Days at one time, and that fixing them at another; whilſt the Coaſt *Negroes* don't trouble themſelves therewith in the leaſt, but believe all Times alike.

On the Gold Coaſt the Natives are not in the leaſt acquainted with Image-Worſhip, but at *Arbra* there are thouſands of Idols.

Believing I have ſufficiently enlarged on the Religion of the *Guineans*, I ſhall take leave of that Subject; and to fill up a ſmall vacancy in this Letter, juſt hint ſomething of their ſtrange Superſtition, nothing uncommon ever happening which is not attributed to ſome Miracle or another: Of which I could tire you and my ſelf with Inſtances that happened

ſince I have been here; but to avoid that, I ſhall content my ſelf with one Inſtance of a thouſand.

In *November* 1698. the King of *Commany*, formerly our utter Enemy, was killed at *Cabocors* by the *Engliſh*; a few Days after which our chief Factor at *Elimina* happened to die, to the great Grief of the *Negroes*, who all unanimouſly agreed, that the beforementioned King of *Commany* had called him to him to the *Elizian* Fields; and that ſince he had no opportunity when alive to ſend any of our chief Men thither, he had taken this Opportunity after his Death of obliging one to follow him, out of revenge, and that we might have the leſs Reaſon to triumph on occaſion of his Death. Thus far and farther extends their horrid Superſtition; but we ſhall leave them and it as impoſſible to be ſeparated, and conclude this with my hearty Reſpect to your ſelf and Lady, *&c.*

LETTER. XI.

Of the Government of the Negroes, *which by reaſon of the ſmall Power veſted in the* Caboceroes *is very looſely and irregularly managed. The difference between Monarchical and Republican Government. What ſort of Government that of* Axim *is. How their Courts of Juſtice are held, and how Juſtice is diſtributed. What Credit is to be given to Evidences. The extenſive Authority of our Factor at* Axim. *Puniſhments of Murther and Thievery. Reſpect of Perſons thought no Injuſtice; and wherefore. Stealing of Men and Cattle ſeverely puniſhed. The Office of Judge redounds very much to the Advantage of our Factor at* Axim, *as appears by a farther Explanation. The unjuſt Way of recovering Debts, which is two or threefold. Wars ariſe from hence. The Reaſons which ſometimes engage them in a War; which is very cheap. The Military Force of the* Negroes *living on the Coaſt near the Sea is very inconſiderable. Their Cowardice in Battle. Their manner of Fighting. Of their Plundering. The Authority of their Prieſts in War. Their uſual Arms, Power and Prerogative of their Kings. They live in no great State, nor are in the leaſt reverenced. Their Revenue. The Poverty of ſome of them. Education of their Children very mean. The Office of a King or chief Perſon.*

SIR,

YOUR obliging Letter, dated the 4th of *October*, was very welcome, and ſo ſpeedily brought to

me

me by the Ship, the *Flying-Dragon*, that from hence only ſhe might very well deſerve that Name; tho' I could wiſh on other occaſions ſhe were not found ſo ſwift; for when our Companies Ships are juſt at her Heels, inſtead of the two Wings the Painter has beſtowed on her, ſhe ſeems rather to have four by her Expedition, ſhe being no ſooner diſcovered but ſhe gets out of ſight: Well, however, if we cannot catch her, may God grant her a ſafe Paſſage rather than ſhe fall into the Enemies Hands.

'Tis with a great deal of Satisfaction I am informed that you have received and are ſo well pleaſed with my Letters treating of this Coaſt, and that you like that part deſcribing the *Commanian* Wars ſo well as to thank me for my trouble, and earneſtly deſire that I will impart what is yet wanting to compleat the Deſign: To excite me to which you all along praiſe my Endeavours. This is what indeed might prevail upon a Perſon of a Humour different from mine; but I am too conſcious of my own Imperfections to be ignorant how far the complimental Commendations your Civility beſtows, belong to me, and am not in the leaſt moved by them; but if you would urge me to proceed, you ought to uſe no other Arguments than that 'tis your deſire, and the Obligations I have to you are the moſt prevalent which can be offer'd. This I am writing as a Proof of my zealous Inclinations to ſerve you, ſince I am not in haſte likely to obtain another Opportunity, is like to take in as much matter as would fill one and a half or two Letters.

Our preſent Subjects are, the Government, Adminiſtration of Government, and Wars of the *Negroes*; each of which I ſhall but imperfectly touch upon, becauſe the two former will naturally fall in on ſome future Occaſions, and the laſt you have already had a Specimen of in the Relation of *Commany*: and to conclude this Letter, I deſign to ſhew you the *Guinea* Kings in their brighteſt Luſtre and Glory.

The

The Government of the *Negroes* is very licentious and irregular, which only proceeds from the ſmall Authority of their chief Men or *Cabocero*'s; and frequent Wars are occaſioned by their remiſs Government and abſurd Cuſtoms.

The difference betwixt the Adminiſtration of the Government of Monarchies and Commonwealths is here very great. Of the former the Power and Juriſdiction being veſted in a ſingle Perſon, I ſhall not ſay much at preſent: But ſhall only ſpeak of the Republicks; amongſt which that of *Axim* and *Axte* ſeeming the moſt like Regular, I ſhall repreſent them as Inſtances of the reſt: tho' indeed the beſt of their Governments and Methods of Adminiſtration of Juſtice are ſo confuſed and perplexed, that they are hardly to be comprehended, much leſs then are they to be expreſt with any manner of Connexion on Paper.

The Government of *Axim* conſiſts of two Parts, the firſt whereof is the Body of *Caboceroes*, or chief Men; the other the *Manceroes*, or young Men. All Civil or Publick Affairs which commonly occur are under their Adminiſtration; but what concerns the whole Land, and are properly National Affairs, as making of Peace and War, the raiſing Tributary Impoſitions to be paid to Foreign Nations (which ſeldom happens,) that falls under the Cognizance of both Parts, or Members of the Government: And on theſe occaſions the *Manceroes* often manage with a Superiour Hand, eſpecially if the *Caboceroes* are not very rich in Gold and Slaves, and conſequently able by their aſſiſtance to bring o'er the other to their ſide.

Their diſtribution of Juſtice is in the following Manner: If one of the *Negroes* hath any pretenſion upon another, he doth not go empty-handed, but loaded with Preſents of Gold and Brandy (the latter of which is here of a Magnetick Virtue) and applies himſelf to the *Caboceroes*; after the delivery of which he ſtates his Caſe to them, deſiring they will diſpatch his Cauſe with the firſt opportunity, and oblige his Ad-

Adverſary to an ample Satisfaction If they are reſolved to favour him highly, a full Council is called immediately, or at fartheſt within two or three Days, according as it is moſt convenient; and after having maturely conſulted, Judgment is given in his Favour, and that frequently as directly oppoſite to Juſtice as to any other Reaſon than the received Bribe.

But on the contrary, inſtead of favouring, are they incenſed againſt the Plantiff, or have they received a larger Bibe from his Adverſary, the juſteſt Cauſe in the World cannot protect him from Judgment againſt him; or if Right appear too plainly on his ſide, to avoid an enſuing Scandal, they will delay and keep off a Trial, obliging the injured Perſon, after tedious and vain Sollicitations, to wait in hopes of finding juſter Judges hereafter, which perhaps does not happen in the Compaſs of his Life; and ſo of conſequence the Suit devolves upon his Heirs as an Inheritance; who, whenever an Opportunity offers, tho' thirty Years after, know very well how to make uſe of it; as I my ſelf have ſeveral times had ſuch Cauſes come before me, that one would be apt to think 'twere impoſſible they ſhould remember ſo long, conſidering they want the Aſſiſtance of Reading and Writing.

It ſometimes falls out that the Plantiff, or perhaps the Defendant, finding the Cauſe given againſt him contrary to Reaſon, is too impatient to wait for an Opportunity of having Juſtice done him; but makes uſe of the firſt favourable one of ſeizing ſuch a quantity of Gold or Goods as is likely to repair his Damage, not only from his Adverſary or Debtor, but the firſt which falls in his way, if at leaſt he does but live in the ſame City or Village; and what he hath thus poſſeſſed himſelf of he will not re-deliver 'till he receive plenary Satisfaction, and is at Peace with his Adverſary, or is obliged to it by force. If he be ſtrong enough to defend himſelf and his Capture, he is ſure to keep it, and thereby engage a third Perſon

in

in the Suit on account of the ſeizure of his Effects for Security, who hath his Remedy on the Perſon on whoſe Account he hath ſuffered this Damage: ſo that hence proceed frequent Murthers, and ſometimes Wars are thereby occaſioned; but of this more hereafter.

But if the Sentence of the *Cabocero*'s be Juſt, or the Cauſe come to our Fort to be decided in preſence of our Factor, the Diſpute is amicably concluded by adjudging it againſt him who the Evidence prove is in the wrong, and 'tis found has not a ſufficient Plea to offer in his Defence to clear himſelf of it: But if on the other ſide he can clear himſelf by Witneſſes, he is diſcharged; and if neither of the Parties have any Evidence, the accuſed clearing himſelf upon Oath is diſcharged; which if he cannot do, he is liable to have Judgment paſs againſt him, to pay what is charged on him, provided that the Plantiff hath given his Charge upon Oath, which he is always obliged to do.

The Oath of Purgation is preferr'd before the Oath of Accuſation; for if the Plantiff prove his Complaint by two, or but one Witneſs, the Defendant is not allowed to ſwear.

This frequently occaſions ſome very ill Accidents, Perjury being no new thing among the *Negroes*; and he that is injur'd this way is ſure to watch all Opportunities of Revenge. But this Injuſtice very ſeldom or never occurs any where but at diſtant and far In-land Places, where our Factors can take no cognizance of it: But all Suits ariſing amongſt or near our Forts are determined by the Sentence of the Factor and the *Caboceroes*, and ſo remain decided for ever; their Judgment being ſtrictly Obligatory and admitting of no Appeal but to the Director-General, in caſe the Factor or *Caboceroes* have been miſinformed of the Cauſe, which ſcarce ever happens; ſo the *Negroes* pay the Fines they are condemned in, with the utmoſt Willingneſs. What theſe Fines are,

are, and how proportioned to Crimes, I ſhall immediately inform you.

Thus you ſee when a Law-Suit is begun, we can end it without the aſſiſtance of Attorneys or Counſellors, in a much ſhorter time, and perhaps with as much Juſtice, as where thoſe Gentlemen are moſt employed: tho' I muſt own that the Cauſes here are ſeldom ſo difficult and puzling as to require the Advice or Aſſiſtance of Council: for the Cauſes, Plantiffs, Defendants and Judges, are equally ſimple and upon a level; ſo I leave to your Judgment whether this is to be commended or blamed.

As to the uſual Penalties: Firſt, Murther is puniſhed two ſeveral Ways, one is by the Death of the Murtherers; and the other by a pecuniary Mulct; which again is of two ſorts, with reſpect to the Free, and thoſe who are not ſo; that is, the Free-born and the Slaves.

'Tis very ſeldom that any Perſon is here executed for Murther, if he either hath any Effects himſelf, or hath any rich Friends to pay the appointed Fine.

If any Body kill a Free-born *Negroe* of *Axim*, and the Murtherer is to be remitted by a Fine, the old uſual Sum of five hundred Crowns is demanded of him, tho' the whole Demand is ſeldom paid, the Murtherer generally getting ſome Abatement, according as the Relations of the murthered Perſon ſtand affected; for 'tis at their choice to be contented with as little as they pleaſe, and they only he is obliged to agree with; quite contrary to what a certain Writer affirms, *viz.* that the Fines accrue to the King; which is ſo falſe, that he has no pretence to the leaſt Share, unleſs he hath been aſſiſtant in the getting of them, when indeed he is paid for his Trouble only.

The mentioned five hundred Crowns is to be underſtood of a common free *Negroe*, but on account of a conſiderable Perſon I have known the Fine augmented

mented to ten times that Sum; which indeed ſhould not ſuffice, there being too many that would willingly give five hundred Crowns to remove a chief Man out of the way; wherefore the Fine in this caſe is left to the Diſcretion of the Judges.

The Murtherer of a Slave is uſually fined ſix and thirty Crowns; but 'tis in this caſe as in the firſt, if the Murtherer ſtand hard he obtains an Abatement of the injured Perſon, who ſeldom gets above a Chain or String of Gold of above thirty two Crowns.

But if a Murtherer cannot pay his Fine, he is obliged to give Blood for Blood, and is accordingly executed in a miſerable and cruel Manner: For they do in a ſort kill him a thouſand times, by cutting, hacking, pricking, or running him through the Body and ſhooting him, or whatever elſe they can invent to torture him, unleſs our Factor ſends for him out of their Hands, and orders his Crime to be puniſhed by ſtriking off his guilty Head. Next to Murther, Thievery and Adultery is moſt ſeverely puniſhed, but at preſent we ſhall only touch on the former, reſerving the Latter for another Place.

Robbery is commonly puniſhed by the Reſtoration of the ſtolen Goods, and paying a Fine; in the adjudging of which, particular regard is had to the Value of the ſtolen Goods, the Place where and by whom the Fact is committed: For Example, one is fined twenty Crowns, beſides what he hath ſtolen, and another for Robbery every way equal ſhall be fined one hundred or more, and that without the leaſt Injuſtice, I mean according to their ancient municipal Cuſtoms; of which a Factor who ſits in Judgment ought not to be ignorant, leaſt according to his own Opinion only, he pronounce an improper Sentence. Reſpect of Perſons in the Adminiſtration of Juſtice is not here look'd upon as the leaſt Injuſtice; tho' the beſt Effect of this is, that the Rich are commonly more ſeverely handled than the Poor, which they think reaſonable on two Accounts; firſt, the Rich

Rich were not urged to it by neceſſity; and, ſecondly, they can better ſpare the Money: for no Body is here fined above his Ability, unleſs by an Accumulation of Crimes, he hath given occaſion thereto, and then he is ſent into Slavery. This is the true Reaſon why a diſcreet *Negroe*, tho' he is rich, will always pretend Poverty, leaſt he or ſome of his Relations falling into the Hands of the Judges ſhould be too hardly uſed on that account.

The ſtealing of Men is puniſhed with rigid Severity, and ſometimes with Death itſelf; and they are equally ſevere againſt the Stealers of Cattle, as Hogs, Sheep, *&c.* And herein they agree with our Opinion, for the dumb Beaſt cannot defend it ſelf, nor call any to its aſſiſtance. They will rather put a Man to Death for ſtealing a Sheep, than killing a Man, more eſpecially in thoſe Places where they are free from any Subjection to the *Europeans*, who generally puniſh it by a pecuniary Mulct only; whether it be, that they are not fond of Blood, or that they love the profit which accrues to them thereby, that I leave to you to determine, ſince I have before informed you that the *Negroes* under our Government had rather it ſhould be attoned by a Fine, but not extorted by Avarice inſtead of Juſtice. And according to this Rule, I ſquared my Conduct in my Judges Office; of which I ſhall hereafter give you an Inſtance.

All Fines which occur at *Axim* are paid into the Factor's Hands, who diſtribute them to the injured Perſons, firſt deducting his Fee, which not many Years paſt was very conſiderable, but not long ſince was diminiſhed by a certain Gentleman, and the Factor ſtrictly ordered not to demand more than eight Crowns for the deciſion of the moſt important Suit, which ſhould come before him; and not only that, but if offered he was commanded to refuſe it. An Order really too ſevere, to hinder another's doing good, and not permit him to receive and uſe his juſt Per-

Perquiſites at Pleaſure. This Gentleman pretended thereby to ſhew his Tenderneſs to the Blacks; but my ſelf and ſeveral others were of another Opinion: Its true ſource was pure Envy, which would not ſuffer him to let any of the Officers of the Company, his Fellow-Servants, to get any thing, nor indeed any but himſelf; of which his continual Management with the Blacks was but too convincing a Proof: For if he himſelf decided any Cauſe for them, or fined them for any Crime, he was not content to be paid eight Crowns only; but, on the other hand, ſometimes enhanced the Price to ſome hundreds; and I believe the *Axim* Factors finding this Law ſo exorbitantly broken by its Maker, have not the leaſt regard to it; nor are they in the wrong, for it directly claſhes with the old Municipal Cuſtoms of the Country: And for my part, if it had been made before my coming into that Office, I ſhould not have taken much notice of it; but by acting conſonant to their ancient Uſages, have gained the Affection of the Blacks more than by following any Innovation: And this very Law-giver on the contrary, by unjuſt Management, and his exorbitant Avarice, was only expoſed to their implacable Hatred and inveterate Curſes. But enough on this Head: I ſhall next ſhew what are the Perquiſites which accrue to the Factor at *Axim* by the Exerciſe of his Judicial Office.

For inſtance; if a *Negroe* be fined one hundred Crowns for a Crime, the Factor's ſhare is two thirds, and the Aſſembly of *Caboceroes* have the remaining third. But on account of Murther, Robbery, or the forcing the Payments of Debts; three fourths of the whole are the Complainants, and the remainder belonging to the Factor and the *Cabocero's*, is divided according to the mentioned proportion of one third to the *Cabocero's*, and two thirds to the Factor; which render it much more advantagious for the Factor to be Judge here than in our own Country, ſuppoſing our *European* Judges to act honeſtly; what they

they get by unlawful Means, as I am ignorant, I don't deſire to be better informed. Theſe Judicial Fees are, or at leaſt before this Order, were paid very freely, without the leaſt ſcruple by the *Negroes*: even thoſe for whom the Factor had got in a Debt, were very well contented to pay one fourth part of the whole Receipt; and this was as firmly ſettled as the price of Bread at *Amſterdam*.

I ſhall, according to my promiſe, by way of digreſſion, inſert a Relation of a Cauſe depending when I was Factor at *Axim*. In the Country of *Ancober*, which hath long been ſubject to *Axim*, lived two *Cabocero*'s both conſiderable Men, who for ſeveral Years had been engaged in a Diſpute, each pretending that the other was born his Slave, and by Inheritance he had an inviolable Right over him: This was a very perplexed Cauſe, each of them ſeem'd to back his Pretence with Reaſon, and a Proof deduced from many Years paſt; inſomuch that the *Cabocero's* of *Ancober* found themſelves puzzled how to decide it: And both Parties being agreed to plead the Cauſe before me, and expect my determination; not that they thought me wiſer than their Country-men and Honourable Council, but only that it might be ended by my Power: Accordingly it came before my Judgment-Seat; and though I patiently ſpent one whole Day in hearing the Cauſe, yet I aſſure you at the End I was juſt as wiſe as at the Beginning, each of them confirming his Pretenſion by ſo many Witneſſes, and ſeeming to have ſo much right on his ſide, that I could not tell who to give it for. But, however, to put an End to this litigious Suit, I asked them if they were both contented to ſubmit to my Deciſion; to which they freely conſenting, I ſpoke to them in reconciling Terms, aſſuring them that all which they pretended on each ſide ſeemed reaſonable; wherefore 'twas impoſſible to decide which of them was in the right, the proper Witneſſes of this Cauſe being all long

ſince dead, and that all the Evidence they had brought was not valid, it being only by Hear-ſay, and the Merits of the Cauſe conſequently forgotten. Having thus prepared them as cautiouſly as I could, and obſerved that they both ſeemed to agree to it, I made Difficulties of deciding the Diſpute, by telling them that before they went out of my Fort it was my requeſt they ſhouldbe perfectly reconciled, and own each other for free Men, and that he who ſhould ever pretend that the other was his Slave, ſhould be liable to a ſevere Fine.

They both ſeemed very well ſatisfied with this Determination, embracing each other, and vowing an eternal Friendſhip: And the more effectually to convince me of their Satisfaction, they each of them made me a very good Preſent for putting an end to their Quarrel: And, indeed, I really believed all was forgotten and forgiven. But two or three Months afterwards one of them hired two Ruffians to murther the other in his own Houſe, which they did by ſhooting him thro' the Head: At which I being very much incenſed, conſidering it as a thing of dangerous Conſequence by no means to be ſuffer'd in a well-governed Commonwealth (as we ſay) but to be exemplarily puniſhed in order to deter others from ſuch practices, ſent ſome of my principal Officers to *Ancober* with Orders to have the Murtherers delivered over to me, that I might bring them to condign Puniſhment: But they boldly anſwered them, that they were not ſubject to their Maſter, and that he might exerciſe his Authority where he had Juriſdiction. This angred me yet worſe, for by this not only my ſelf but the Authority of the Company was affronted and diminiſhed; to keep up which nothing ought to be neglected. Upon which, I ſoon reſolved to go to that Country, accompanied with ſome of our People, and being gotten about three Miles from our Fort I found about 500 Armed *Negroes*, imagining, I ſuppoſe, the ſight of them would

would terrify me: But on the contrary, as ſoon as the mutual Salutations were paſs'd, I ask'd them why they denied and affronted the Authority of the Company, and did not conſider what Miſchief it would pull down on their Heads: To which they anſwered, that they were belied, for they never pretended to forfeit the Protection of the *Hollanders*, or withdraw their Obedience, ſince the former was ſo advantageous to their Country. Having thus far received Satisfaction, I demanded the Murtherers to be delivered to me in order to their Puniſhment; but this they poſitively denied, but told me, perhaps they would puuiſh them themſelves. Upon this I took my leave of them and was going away, but threatned them withal, that from this time forward, I ſhould believe they all had a hand in the Murther, and that I would certainly ſecure all of their Country-men I could get into my Power and puniſh them as Murtherers: This had ſuch a good Effect, that they immediately conſulted together, and ſent ſome of their People to deſire me to give them a little time to conſider of my Demand, upon which they would bring me an Anſwer. I ſtayed about a quarter of an Hour; after which they brought me the Malefactors Fetter'd, only deſired me that I would not be too haſty in puniſhing them, but only ſtay till they were all preſent; which I promiſed them; and returned with the Criminals, very well ſatisfied with my Expedition.

Scarce three Days after all the chief Men of *Ancober* came and ſhewed themſelves before my Fort, requeſting that I would acquaint them how I intended to puniſh the Murtherers; they were anſwered, by Be-heading them. And to ſtrike a greater Terrour, I cauſed the Executioner with his Inſtruments to appear. Upon which they ſet up a diſmal Lamentation, and begged that I would in compliance with the Cuſtom of their Country, ſuffer the Crime to be attoned with Money: Tho' I deſired

nothing more, yet I ſtood off as tho' I was not to be perſwaded to that until the Relations of the Murthered Perſons (who were already appeaſed) came and deſired me, and what was moſt perſwaſive, offered me the whole Fine: This was what I aimed at: but however, to ſhew my ſelf as generous as they, I was ſatisfied with half the Sum, and ſo we were both very well contented, and the Criminals, who were the Children of conſiderable People, were ſet at liberty. This I have related at large, to ſhew you how we manage our ſelves here to keep up our Authority and Reſpect; which is ſo conſiderable, that no *Negroe* is permitted without leave of the Factor to decide any Cauſe upon forfeiture of all that is thereby gained. In my time a *Negroe* came to deſire me to get him a Debt, which I promiſed, and performed accordingly; but the Debtor, who was no very good Friend of his, informed me that this Debt was contracted by lying with the other's Wife, and appointed to be paid by the *Cabocero's*. The Plantiff coming for his Money, I asked him if he did not know that it was all forfeit, he having ended the Affair without my Knowledge; he frankly confeſſed that it was, and begg'd I would give him but one fourth part of it; but finding him ſo moderate, I I gave him half; for which he very ſubmiſſively thanked me, and went away very joyful.

This is intended to prevent the *Negroes* having any opportunity of forming any Deſigns in oppoſition to us, or to our Diſadvantage.

But to return to where I left off: At ſeveral Places on the Coaſt, Debts are recovered in a very unjuſt and villanous manner, eſpecially on thoſe places where we have little or no Power, or in ſome of the Kingdoms. A Raſcally Creditor in thoſe Places, inſtead of asking his Money of his Debtor, and ſummoning him before the Judges in caſe of refuſal, ſeizes the firſt thing he can meet with, tho' of ſix times the value of his Debt, without any regard who is the Pro-

Proprietor, who when he comes to ask for it, is told that he muſt go to ſuch a Perſon, who is his Debtor, and muſt pay him for it: and this no Body can hinder, ſo he goes immediately to ask the other for Money for his Goods. This is very extravagant Juſtice, the firſt Creditor has ſix times the value of his Debt, and if the ſecond is as unreaſonable as the firſt, and affirms that he would not part with his Goods for a leſs Price, the Creditor is obliged to give him full ſatisfaction, in imitation of an old *Roman* Law; by which, if any Perſon was injured in his Honour and Reputation, the Injurer was oblig'd to pay ſuch a Sum as the Injured ſhould ſwear he would not ſuffer the Damage for leſs, if left to his Choice. 'Tis true, indeed, this Courſe is generally taken in caſe of ſmall Debts: But however the poor Wretch that is the Debtor, is ſometimes obliged to pay a Shilling for a Debt of one Penny in proportion. This is not to be oppoſed, for the Creditor is more potent than he, and is upheld in it perhaps by the King, or the great ones: This happens daily; and ſeveral Men are thereby inriched from a poor Eſtate; and this here bears the Name of Juſtice; but in my Opinion 'tis abominably diſtorted. Some *Negroes* have yet another way to force Money out of People: Which is, that one of theſe inſolent Fellows goes to a Perſon, and tells him that he hath received ſuch Damage by his Son, Nephew, Slave, or ſome Body elſe depending on him; for which he comes to ask ſatisfaction of him, threatning him that elſe he will murther or ſorely wound him or ſhoot ſome Body elſe at his Coſt; and if this Villain have Courage enough to put it in Execution, as I have twice ſeen it happen, the other muſt ſuffer the ſame as if he had done it.

Beſides their accuſtomed Diſtribution of Juſtice above deſcribed, they have yet a very odd ſort of Juſtice, which is under the Direction and Adminiſtration of the *Mancero's*, who have erected a ſort of

Judicial Society in every conſiderable Village, whoſe Province it is to adjudge all trivial Crimes that ſhall appear before them, and of theſe the *Negroes* are very frequently guilty; I mean beating, curſing or reviling one another: Upon which the Perſon who thinks himſelf injured, applies to the *Mancero's* much in the following Terms, *viz.* ſuch a Perſon hath injured me, I ſell or ſurrender him to you; puniſh him according to his Deſert. Upon which theſe Gentlemen with utmoſt diligence take him into Cuſtody, and after a very ſuperficial enquiry into his Crime, lay a Fine of ſome Crowns upon him; which if he ſeems unwilling to pay, as being unjuſtly impoſed on him, they not having heard what he had to ſay in his Defence; the *Mancero's* not at all concerned hereat, only go to the Market where they take up as much Goods on his account as the amount of the Fine; which he is, tho' unwillingly, forced to pay; and they have no ſooner receiv'd this Money, but it is ſpent in Palm-Wine and Brandy.

The Offences which theſe *Mancero's* uſually Fine, are ſo various and ridiculous, that I have not patience enough to particularize any of them; 'tis enough that I inform you that if theſe idle Judges have nothing to do the whole Day, and conſequently get no Money to make them drink; their time is only ſpent in contriving to bring in ſome Body on one pretence or another in order to furniſh them with Liquor.

The Conſultations with the *Caboceroes* in conjunction with the *Mancero's* principally relating to War, we ſhall at preſent touch upon.

When they're deſirous of entring into a War, on account of Ambition, Plunder, or to aſſiſt other Countries already engaged in War, theſe two Councils conſult together: But otherwiſe the greateſt part of their Wars are chiefly occaſioned by the recovery of Debts, and the Diſputes of ſome of the chief

chief People among them. I have formerly hinted ſomething on this Subject, with promiſe to proceed farther on it.

The firmeſt Peace of neighbouring Nations is frequently broken in the following Manner: One of the leading Men in one Country hath Money owing him from a Perſon in an adjacent Country, which is not ſo ſpeedily paid as he deſires; on which he cauſes as many Goods, Freemen, or Slaves to be ſeized by violence and rapine in the Country where his Debtor lives, as will richly pay him: The Men ſo ſeized he claps in Irons, and if not redeemed, ſells them, in order to raiſe Money for the payment of the Debt: If the Debtor be an honeſt Man, and the Debt juſt, he immediately endeavours by the ſatisfaction of his Creditors to free his Country-Men: or if their Relations are powerful enough, they will force him to it: But when the Debt is diſputable, or the Debtor unwilling to pay it, he is ſure to repreſent the Creditor amongſt his own Country-Men as an unjuſt Man, who hath treated him in this manner contrary to all right, and that he is not at all indebted to him. If he ſo far prevails on his Country-Men that they believe him, he endeavours to make ſome of the other Land Priſoners by way of Reprizal; after which they conſequently arm on each ſide, and watch all opportunities of ſuprizing each other. They firſt endeavour to bring the *Caboceers* over to their Party, becauſe they have always ſome Men at their Devoir; next the Soldiers: And thus from a Trifle a War is occaſioned betwixt two Countries, who before lived in Amity, and continues till one of them be ſubdued; or if their Force be equal, till the Principal Men are obliged to make Peace at the requeſt of the Soldiers; which frequently happens, eſpecially about Sowing time, when all the Warriors deſire to return to till the Ground; for in ſerving in the War without Pay, and defraying all Expences out of their private Fortunes,

they quickly grow tired; eſpecially if they get no Advantage of, and conſequently no Plunder by the Enemy.

When the Governours of one Country are inclined to make War with thoſe of another, perhaps on account that they make a better Figure in their manner of Living, or that they're richer; ſo that theſe have a mind to ſome of their Effects: Then they aſſemble together, in conjunction with the *Manceroes*, who alſo give their Advice, and being young, and puft up with hopes of Plunder, are eaſily induced by the Perſwaſions of the *Cabocero's*; and the joint Reſolution is no ſooner formed than every one prepares for War; and being got ready, make an Irruption into the deſigned Country, without giving the leaſt notice or declaring War, urging much the ſame Reaſons with a preſent *European* Potentate, 'tis *my Royal Will and Pleaſure, and for my Glory.* And thus they kill and pillage each other. The injured Nation, to revenge this perfidious breach of Peace, if not powerful enough of its ſelf, hires another to aſſiſt it for leſs than two thouſand Pounds ſterling; for which Price the beſt are here to be had, well armed and appointed for an Engagement: So that indeed War is not here very dear, tho' at this cheap rate you cannot imagine the Armies ſo formidable that are hired for ſuch trivial Wages: but Plunder is their chief Aim, inſtead of which they often get good ſtore of Blows, which prove all the Perquiſites to their mentioned Wages. Theſe Wages they divide amongſt the *Caboceroes* and the *Manceroes*; but the former manage the Affair ſo cunningly, that the latter have not above four or five Shilling each, or perhaps half that Sum; for the leading Men are ſure to adjuſt the Account ſo well in favour of themſelves, that a mighty Reſidue is not likely to be left to make a future Dividend. But as for the Plunder, tho' particularly appropriated to defray the Expence of the War in the firſt place, and the remain-

mainder to be divided, yet every Man ſeizes the firſt part thereof he can lay hold on without any regard to the Publick: But if no Booty is to be come at, the *Manceroes*, like Cats that have wet their Feet, make the beſt of their way Home, not being obliged to ſtay longer than they themſelves pleaſe. Each is under a particular Chieftain in a ſort, though he can command only his Slaves; a free *Negroe* not owning his Authority, or ſubmitting even to their Kings, unleſs compelled by their exorbitant Power, without which they live intirely at their own Pleaſure: But if their Leader is diſpoſed to march up firſt towards the Enemy, he may, but will not be followed by many.

War, as I have twice before told you, is not ſo expenſive as in *Europe*: Our four Years War with the *Cammanyſchians* (except the Damage done to our Trade) did not coſt us in all ſix thouſand Pounds ſterling: For which Sum we had ſucceſſively five Nations in pay. But I have formerly treated this Subject ſo largely, that I need not ſay any more of it at preſent.

A National offenſive War may very well be managed here with four thouſand Men in the Field; but a defenſive requires more. Sometimes the Number of what they call an Army does not amount to more than two thouſand. From whence you may infer of what force the Monarchies and Republicks on the Coaſt are, *Fantyn* and *Aquamboe* only excepted; the firſt of which is able to bring an Army of twenty five thouſand Men, and the latter a much larger. But the Inland Potentates, ſuch as *Akim*, *Aſiante*, &c. are not to be reckoned amongſt theſe; they being able to over-run a Country by their numerous Armies; tho' I cannot inform you any otherwiſe concerning thoſe People, than what by hints we learn from the *Negroes*, who are not always to be believed. But as for the Monarchies ſituate near us, I dare affirm, that tho' each of the two contending

Ar-

Armies were compoſed of five or ſix ſeveral Nations, they would not together make twenty five thouſand Men; upon which account joyn'd to their Cowardice, very few Men are killed in a Battle; and that Engagement is very warm which leaves one thouſand Men upon the place; for they are ſo timerous that as ſoon as they ſee a Man fall by them, they run for it, and only think of getting ſafe Home. In the laſt Battle between the *Cammanyſchians*, and thoſe of *Saboe*, *Acanni*, *Cabes-Terra* and two or three other Countries, I don't believe that one hundred Men were killed, and yet the *Cammanyſchians* drove their Enemies out of the Field, and obtained a compleat Victory.

They are very irregular in their Engagements, not obſerving the leaſt Shadow of Order; but each Commander hath his Men cloſe together in a ſort of Crowd; in the midſt of which he is generally to be found; ſo that they attack the Enemy Man for Man, or one heap of Men againſt another; and ſome of their Commanders ſeeing their Brother Officer furiouſly attack'd, and ſomewhat put to it, chooſe rather to run with the Hare than hold with the Hounds, and that frequently before they had ſtruck one Stroke, or ſtood ſo much as one Bruſh; and their Friends whom they left engaged certainly follow them, if in the leaſt preſſed, unleſs ſo intangled with the Enemy, that 'tis not for want of good Will if they don't; but if no opportunity offers, tho' againſt their Will, they get the Reputation of good Soldiers.

In fight the *Negroes* don't ſtand upright, againſt one another, but run ſtooping and liſtening that the Bullets may fly over their Heads. Others creep towards the Enemy, and being come cloſe, let fly at them; after which they run away as faſt as they can, and, as if the Devil was ſure of the hindmoſt, get to their own Army as ſoon as poſſible, in order to load their Arms and fall on again. In ſhort, their ridiculous Geſtures, ſtooping, creeping and cry-

crying, make their Fight look more like Monkeys playing together than a Battle.

The Booty which the Commonalty chiefly aim at, are the Priſoners and Ornaments of Gold, and *Conte de Terra*; for ſome, eſpecially the Inland *Negroes*, are ſo ſimple as to dreſs themſelves in the richeſt manner poſſible on theſe occaſions: Wherefore they are frequently ſo loaded with Gold and *Conte de Terra*, that they can ſcarce march.

Common Priſoners who cannot raiſe their Ranſom, are kept or ſold for Slaves at pleaſure: If they take any conſiderable Perſon, he is very well guarded, and a very high Ranſom put upon him: But if the Perſon who occaſioned the beginning of the War be taken, they will not eaſily admit him to Ranſom, tho' his weight in Gold were offered, for fear he ſhould for the future form ſome new deſign againſt their repoſe.

The moſt Potent *Negroe* can't pretend to be inſured from Slavery; for if he ever ventures himſelf in the Wars it may eaſily become his Lot; he is conſequently obliged to remain in that State till the Sum demanded for his Redemption is fully paid; which withal is frequently ſet ſo high, that he, his Friends, and all his Intereſt are not ſufficient to raiſe it: on which account he is forced to a perpetual Slavery, and the moſt contemptible Offices. Some amongſt them are ſo barbarous, that finding their hopes of a high Ranſom fruſtrated, they pay themſelves by cruelly murthering the wretched Priſoner.

Wars betwixt two Deſpotical Kings, who have their Subjects intirely at their Command, are of a long Duration, and frequently laſt ſeveral Years ſucceſſively, or till the utter Ruine of one of 'em ends the Diſpute. They frequently lie a whole Year incampt againſt each other without attempting any thing, a few diverting Skirmiſhes excepted: only againſt Rainy Weather they each return home without moleſting one another.

Tho'

Tho' this is chiefly owing to their Prieſts, without whoſe Suffrage they are not eaſily induced to attempt a Battle; they adviſe them againſt it, under pretence that their Gods have not yet declared in favour of them; and if they will attempt it notwithſtanding, they threaten an ill Iſſue: But if theſe crafty Villains obſerve that their Army is much ſtronger than the Enemies, and the Soldiers well inclin'd to fighting, they always adviſe to attempt it; tho' with ſuch a cautious reſerve, that if it ſucceed contrary to expectation, they never want an excuſe to bring themſelves off: The Commanders or Soldiers have done this or that thing, which they ought not to have done; for which reaſon the whole Army is puniſhed. In ſhort, let the Event prove how it will, the Prieſt is infallibly Innocent, and his Character always maintains its own Reputation.

I doubt not but I have ſufficiently enlarged on their ridiculous Wars, if I have not dwelt longer on them than they deſerve; wherefore I ſhall relate the Events which happened in my time, and apply my ſelf to the deſcription of their Military Arms.

The chief of theſe are Muſquets or Carabins, in the management of which they are wonderful dextrous. 'Tis not unpleaſant to ſee them exerciſe their Army; they handle their Arms ſo cleverly, diſcharging them ſeveral ways, one ſitting, the ſecond creeping, or lying, *&c.* that 'tis really to be admired they never hurt one another. Perhaps you wonder how the *Negroes* come to be furniſhed with Fire-Arms, but you will have no Reaſon when you know we ſell them incredible quantities, thereby obliging them with a Knife to cut our own Throats. But we are forced to it; for if we would not, they might be ſufficiently ſtored with that Commodity by the *Engliſh*, *Danes*, and *Brandenburghers*; and could we all agree together not to ſell them any, the *Engliſh* and *Zeeland* Interlopers would abundantly furniſh them: And ſince that and Gun-powder for ſome time hath been

been the chief vendible Merchandiſe here, we ſhould have found but an indifferent Trade without our ſhare in it. 'Twere indeed to be wiſhed that theſe dangerous Commodities had never been brought hither, or at leaſt that the *Negroes* might be in a ſhort time brought to be content with ſomewhat elſe in their room: but this in all appearance is never likely.

Next their Guns, in the ſecond place are their Swords, ſhaped like a ſort of chopping Knives, being about two or three Hands broad at the extremity, and about one at the Handle, and about three or four Spans long at moſt; and a little crooked at the top. Theſe Sabres are very ſtrong, but commonly ſo blunt that ſeveral Strokes are neceſſary to cut off a Head: They have a wooden Guard adorn'd on one ſide, and ſometimes on both, with ſmall globular Knobs, covered with a ſort of Skin, whilſt others content themſelves with bits of Rope ſinged black with the Blood of Sheep or other Cattle, with the additional Ornament of a bunch of Horſe-hair, amongſt People of Condition thin Gold Plates are uſual: To this Weapon belongs a leather Sheath almoſt open on one ſide; to which by way of Ornament, a Tyger's Head, or a large red Shell is hung; both which are valuable here. Theſe Sabres they wear when they go out at their left Hip hanging in a Belt, which is girt about their Waſtes for that end, or ſtuck in their Paan, which is round about their Bodies, and comes betwixt their Legs, that they may run the ſwifter; beſides which, they are begirt with a Bandalier Belt, with about twenty Bandaliers. They have a Cap on their Heads made of a Crocodil's Skin, adorned on each ſide with a red Shell, and behind with a bunch of Horſe-hair, and a heavy Iron-Chain, or ſomething elſe inſtead of it, girt round their Head. Thus appointed, with their Bodies coloured white, our Heroes look liker Devils than Men.

Their

Their other Weapons are firſt a Bow and Arrow; but theſe are not much in vogue amongſt the Coaſt *Negroes*, thoſe of *Aquamboe* alone excepted, who are ſo nicely dextrous in ſhooting, that in Hare-hunting they will lodge their ſmall fine Arrows in what part of the Hare's Body is deſired. Theſe Arrows have Feathers at their Head, and are pointed with Iron. The *Negroes* of *Awinee* uſually poiſon them; but on the Coaſt that pernicious Cuſtom is not practiſed, nor do they ſo much as know what Poiſon is.

Next follows the *Aſſagay* or *Haſſagay*, as ſome call them, which are of two ſorts; the ſmaller ſorts are about a Flemiſh Ell, or perhaps half an Ell longer, and very ſlender; and theſe they caſt as Darts: The ſecond, or larger ſort, are about twice as long and large as the former, the upper-part pointed with Iron like a Pike; ſome of them are covered for the length of one Span or two, tho' in all manner of Shapes. The Aſſagay ſerves them inſtead of a Sabre, that having their Shield in the left Hand, they may the more conveniently dart the Aſſagay with the Right: for they have always ſome Body or other to carry them after them.

Laſt of all their Shields, which ſerve only on a defenſive covering of the Body, and not to the offending any Perſon. I have ſeen *Negroes* wondrous dextrous in the management of theſe Shields, which they hold in their Left Hand, and a Sabre in the Right; and playing with both they put their Body into very ſtrange Poſtures, and ſo artificially cover themſelves with the Shield, that 'tis impoſſible to come at 'em. Theſe Shields, which are about four or five foot long and three broad, are made of Oſiers; Some of which are covered with Gold-Leather, Tyger's-Skins, or ſome other Materials: Some of them alſo have at each Corner and in the middle broad thin Copper-plates faſtened on, to ward off the Arrows and the light Aſſagayes, as well as the blows of the Sabre, if they are good, tho' they are not proof againſt a Muſquet-Ball. I think

I think theſe are all the Weapons uſed amongſt the *Negroes*, without I ſhould tell you that ſome of them alſo are poſſeſſed of a few Cannon: 'tis indeed true, but they uſe them in a very ſlovenly manner. The King of *Saboe* hath a very ſmall Number, with which he has been in the Field, but he never made uſe of them. Some of 'em after once firing them, have ſuffered the Enemy to take them, as it happened to the *Commanyſchians*; after which, thoſe who took them were ignorant of the uſe of 'em: So that theſe Monarchs Cannon only ſerves to ſhoot by way of Compliment and Salutation; of which the Blacks are very fond.

Promiſes create a Debt; and at the beginning of this Letter you have my Word that it ſhould conclude with the Grandeur of their Kings: In purſuance of which, let us ſee wherein it conſiſts.

The Extent of their Territories is ſo ſmall, that ſome of them have not more Land under their Juriſdiction than a ſingle Captain or Bailiff of a Village, and bear the ſame Name accordingly amongſt the *Negroes*: For before the Arrival of the *Europeans* in this Country, no higher Title was known amongſt them than that of Captain or Colonel, with this only difference, that the one was appropriated to a Country, but the other to a Village. But ſince their Converſation with us, they, or rather we, make a diſtinction betwixt a King and a Captain. The firſt Word by which it was expreſſed, was *Obin* or *Abin*, which ſignifies Captain in our Language, but they always underſtood by it a Commander of a Country, Town or Nation; for our Maſter of Ships generally aſſume the ſame Title; and by the ſame Appellation would alſo be applyed to, without any diſtinction, to our Director-General and Chief of Forts, if we did not better inform the Natives of the difference. Kings are obliged in this Country to preſerve their Power by dint of Force; wherefore the richer they are in Gold and Slaves, the more

more they are honoured and eſteemed; and without thoſe they have not the leaſt Command over their Subjects; but on the contrary, would not only be obliged to pray but pay their Underlings to execute their Commands. But if the Goddeſs Fortune has endowed them with a rich ſhare of Treaſure, they are naturally cruel enough to govern their People Tyrannically and puniſh them ſo ſeverely in their Purſes for trivial Crimes, that they cannot forget it all the remainder of their Lives; and this is done with a ſeeming colour of Juſtice; for the King having any thing to charge on another, delivers the Matter into the Hands of the *Cabocero's*, and ſubmits it to their Deciſion, who knowing his Mind, are ſure to aggravate the Crime as much as poſſible, and take care that their Judgment be conſonant to his Royal Will and Pleaſure.

The Kings in their Dwellings, or, if I may ſo call them, Courts, do not diſtinguiſh themſelves by keeping any State. There is no Guard at their Palace Gates, nor any Body to wait on them, and when they ſtir abroad in their Town 'tis very ſeldom they are attended by any more Company than two Boys, one of which carries the Sabre, the other the Stool or Chair; and if they are met in the Streets, they are about as much complimented as a Cobler amongſt us, whom we hardly beſtow a Hat upon if we know him to be ſuch. The meaneſt Slave never ſtirs one ſtep out of the way on their account. But on the contrary, if they are going to pay a Viſit to any Perſon in another Town, or are to be viſited by ſome conſiderable Man, they always take care to ſhew their Grandeur, and on ſuch occaſions are always accompanied with armed Men; ſeveral Shields are then carried for their uſe, and an Umbrella above their Heads, that the Gentleman's Skin be not darkned by the Sun: Their Wives are then finely dreſſed with Gold and other rich Ornaments; and have a long String of Gold and *Conte di Terra* or Coral hung about

about 'em: Tho' in their Towns they and all their Wives are ſo wretchedly habited, that their Cloaths are ſometimes not worth one Shilling, nor ſufficient to diſtinguiſh them from the meaneſt Slave.

Theſe great Princes are ſo miſerably covetous, that there is not one of their Subjects ſo poor from whom they would not catch at a Preſent. Hence it is that their Majeſties Kitchins are not much better furniſhed than thoſe of the common *Negroes*; Bread, Oil, and a little ſtinking Fiſh makes up their Bill of Fare, and Water is their Drink for the greateſt part of the Day; in the Morning, if they have it, they drink Brandy; and in the Afternoon Palm-Wine: In one Word, their manner of Living is indiſtinguiſhable from the meaneſt amongſt them.

At the Time when the Palm-Wine comes from the In-land Country, they go in the Afternoons altogether, *viz.* Slaves and all as Companions, to the publick Market-place, where they ſit down and drink very ſociably; every one that pleaſes, bringing his own Stool, adds himſelf to the Croud: Here they tipple till they have even burſt the Lice in their Head; but when they're a little warmed and their Thirſt ſomewhat ſlacked, they drink like Cabocero's, whole Bumpers and Pints; for the Calabaſh out of which they drink holds a Pint, Quart, or ſometimes a Pottle, which when they come to be merry, is half, or perhaps quite filled, which they ſet to their Mouths to drink, ſtraining to about two thirds through their Beards in order to fall to the Ground, making by that means a ſort of Rivulet of Wine on the place where they ſit; and this is eſteemed a great Piece of Magnanimity. The *Europeans* (amongſt whom I don't pretend to be ſingular) are very good at this Sport; but 'tis well for them 'tis not *Rheniſh* or *French* Wine, for that would be too expenſive; and here for 4 or

5 Shillings they may get drunk, and throw away large Quantities.

When theſe drunken Brethren come together they are as Impertinent and Noiſie as the Smouſe or *German* Jews at their Synagogue at *Amſterdam*. But you muſt not imagine the Diſcourſe to turn on ſerious Subjects or State Affairs; not in the leaſt; 'tis generally rank Bawdy; of which they are ſo full, that it continually runs over; and though the Women come amongſt them, this is no Reaſon for interrupting the Diſcourſe, for they are always ready to bear their Part, being very richly furniſhed on this Head; nor is it ever thought ſcandalous for them to diſplay this Sort of Talent. In ſhort, this is a perfect Babling and Scolding-School, where each Perſon freely gives his Neighbour his own, as they call it: But in a much better manner than in *Europe*, where Railing is the Buſineſs of the private Entertaining Rooms; for here the Perſons exclaimed againſt are preſent, and conſequently may vindicate themſelves. But hold, I ſhall run too far; 'tis fit I tell you that though the Kings live thus in common with their Slaves, yet on very ſlight Occaſions they frequently give them broken Heads, from which thoſe only are excepted who have acquired a Reputation amongſt the People: And indeed I have obſerved that ſome of theſe Slaves had more Authority than their Maſters; for having long exerciſed a Command over their Maſters Dependents, by their own Trading they are become Poſſeſſors of ſome Slaves themſelves, and in Proceſs of Time are grown ſo powerful, that their Patrons are obliged to ſee with their Eyes only; and what is yet more, 'tis not ſeldom that they ſo obſtinately oppoſe their Maſters, that they will not be appeaſed by any other Means than a Preſent.

A King here is always very ready to be hired to the Aſſiſtance of any of his Neighbours in their Wars,

Wars, becauſe the greateſt Part of the Money agreed for falls to his Share; after the Receipt of which, he is not much concerned, whether the promiſed Aſſiſtance be punctually ready at the appointed Time or not; if he has received the Gold 'tis enough, he always knows how to ſatisfy his Cuſtomers with one Lye or other: in which they are ſo ſubtle, that they will, unobſerved, defraud even thoſe who are very well upon their Guard. Though this is an advantageous Sort of Trade, they are yet more fond of being Mediators betwixt diſagreeing Nations; for on this Account they get Money from both Parties, and keep the Breach open as long as poſſibly they can, in order to get the more Money from each. 'Tis upon theſe Incomes that they chiefly ſubſiſt, for their Revenue is very inconſiderable. 'Tis indeed true that they impoſe a Toll on all Goods paſſing through their Country; But the Collectors being always ſome of the principal Men amongſt them, make ſure of the largeſt Share of it, and collect ſo well for themſelves, that the King has very little of it. In a Word, he is obliged to ſubſiſt on exorbitant Fines fraudulently extorted from his Subjects, or on the manual Labour of himſelf and Slaves. Wherefore thoſe Kings are unfortunate who have but few Slaves, and conſequently are not very rich or potent. I have known ſome of theſe ſo poor, that they had neither Money nor Credit to command a Bottle of Palm-Wine to treat their Viſitants. Hence you may collect how rich and potent theſe Wrens of State are (as Monſieur *Doudyn* calls them in his *Mercury*.) But perhaps being already tired with this Account of the Pomp and Grandeur of their Wives, Slaves, and Houſhold as well as themſelves, you would gladly be informed how the illuſtrious Princes and Princeſſes, their Royal Off-ſpring, are educated. I have formerly given you ſome general Hints concerning the *Negroe* Children; 'tis then

ſufficient to aſſure you that I never could obſerve the leaſt Difference in this particular betwixt the Royal and Common Education. The Princes being arrived at Years of Maturity, to get an honeſt Livelihood, either plow the Land or draw Palm-Wine, which I can aſſure you they are not aſhamed to carry to the Market themſelves in order to ſell it: But if they are not employed in theſe Occupations, 'tis in ſomething elſe equally conſiſtent with their Character; from whence in Proceſs of Time they aſcend the Royal Throne of their Anceſtors. If you reflect on this, 'twill ſomewhat abate your Wonder, how Husbandmen, Shepherds, or Porters, as *Agathocles* was, ſhould ever wear Royal Crowns, as Hiſtories inform us: It daily occurs here; nay, what is yet more, the Throne is often filled with thoſe who when young, have ſerved us as Foot-Boys, or in a meaner Capacity; wherefore you may imagine we cannot be brought to have a very great Eſteem for theſe Potentates: No, I can aſſure you the meaneſt of our Factors thinks better of himſelf than one of theſe Kings: And indeed his Authority is much more conſiderable, if we conſider him to exerciſe that of the Director-General and Council, in whoſe Name he acts; but leaving that as it is, I had rather refer you to Monſieur *Focquenbrog* than ſay any more of our Grandeur.

As for the Ladies, the Princeſſes, perhaps you will be apt think them too tender for the Fatigues of Agriculture; no, not in the leaſt, they muſt alſo lay their Hands to the Plow: But if it happens that one of theſe illuſtrious Ladies is too haughty to ſtain her high Birth by working like a Slave, ſhe generally takes up a Trade more likely to maintain her gentilely, which requires no more than what Madam Nature has liberally beſtow'd on her; and if ſhe does not get ſo much as the Ladies of her Profeſſion in *Europe*, ſhe has not ſuch extravagant Wants as they, and is conſequently

ly very well ſatisfied. Several of theſe are married in their young Days, without the leaſt Regard to high Birth or Family, every Body pleaſing themſelves in their Choice, for a Marriage between a King's Daughter and a Slave is not at all thought diſproportionate, but is indeed ſomewhat better than for a King's Son to marry a Slave, which daily happens; ſince the common Proverb, that the Children follow the Mother is here paſſed into an unalterable Rule, and conſequently the Iſſue of the former (*viz.* the Princeſs married to a Slave) are free, and thoſe proceeding from the latter, Slaves. Thus you have a View of the whole Royal Family. It remains now that I ſhould give you ſome Account of the great Officers under the King, which conſiſt of *Braffoo's*, or Enſigns, Sabre-Bearers, *Tie-Tie's*, that is, publick Cryers or Proclaimers, Attendants on their Wives, Horn-blowers, or Trumpeters and Drummers: Which Offices the following Lines will elucidate. That of *Braffo* I have already explained to be a ſort of Marſhal, who is to charge firſt in Battle, which if he have but Courage enough he always does. The ſecond are the Saber or Sword-bearers; of which theſe Monarchs have generally about four. Whether theſe agree with the antient Armour-Bearers, I can't certainly tell, though I believe them very near alike. This, whatever you may think of it, is no mean Poſt; for the Gentlemen to whom it is entruſted, ſometimes become honoured with the Character of Ambaſſadors to Foreign Courts: Tho' to do Juſtice, that more properly belongs to the *Tie-Tie's* or publick Cryers, who are alſo made uſe of on this Occaſion, and ſent by their Maſters on National Errands to Friends or Enemies, their Caps being an effectual Free-paſs every where, ſuppoſing them; to be ſent by their Maſter; but otherwiſe they cannot protect them; they being in Effect not unlike our *European* Trumpeters in Time

of War. Each Town hath one or two of theſe Officers to cry what is ſtrayed, loſt or ſtolen; and to proclaim the Orders made by the Governors or Kings: Beſides all which, when ſitting in Council, they are obliged when the Voices run too high and confuſed, to cry out, *Tie-Tie*, or hearken, from whence the Name of their Office is borrowed. They wear a Cap made of a black Apes Skin, whoſe Hair is about one Fingers Length, and in their Hands they have a Bunch made of the Hair of an Elephant's Tail, and ſmall Ruſhes; with which they defend their Maſter from the Flies. The fourth and laſt as well as moſt conſiderable Officers, are the Attendants on the Kings Wives: Their chief Province is to take Care that no Strangers pluck the Fruit of their Maſters Orchard: Though I am apt to think when theſe happen to be tolerable handſome Fellows, that they make better uſe of their Poſts than their Maſter of his Propriety. They are alſo entruſted with all the King's Treaſury; of which they carry the Keys, for they are not truſted to any beſides them, and conſequently they are the only Perſons who after the King's Deceaſe are able and obliged to give an Account of his Treaſury. Beſides theſe, our Monarchs have no other Officers. But I ought alſo to inform you, they are not Kings alone who are thus ſerved, but every principal Man has the ſame ſorts of Officers to attend him, being herein equal with the King; or if he is very rich, perhaps he will out-vie him.

I dare ſay you will not complain that this is too ſhort; if its Length is not tireſome 'tis well; I have only the Importance of the Subject to plead; in ſhort, that it prove agreeable, is the Wiſh of Yours, *&c.*

LET-

LETTER XII.

Of the Negroes *Manner of Marrying. The Bride brings no Fortune, and the Bridegroom but a very ſmall one. Wedding Charges very eaſy. How many Wives they have: What Work they do, and the Idleneſs of the Men. Merchants Wives live the beſt. Some drive a Trade with their Wives. The particular Subtilety of the Women. Fines for lying with another Man's Wife, and how the Cauſe is tryed. Married People have no mutual Propriety in Money or Goods, nor does the one inherit any Effects of the other, nor do the Children inherit their Parents Goods. How the Right of Inheritance devolves. Adultery is ſeverely puniſhed in the Inland Country; each Perſon there being chiefly his own Judge. Wives not permitted to puniſh their Husbands for Adultery. How the Men divide themſelves amongſt their Wives. Fruitful Women Honoured and Reſpected. Ridiculous Ceremonies on a young Woman's being with Child the firſt Time. What Name they give their Children. Wonderful Separation of the Women of* Ante *when they have born ten Children. Menſtruous Women Unclean. Circumciſion uſual amongſt them; a Conjecture from whence they derived that Cuſtom. Of the Unmarried. Early Marriages. Why Women remain longeſt Unmarried. Multitude of Women. Common Proſtitutes initiated to Trade. Their ſmall Hire. How highly they are valued if ſound. Unmarried Women are Whores, though not called ſo. A Deſcription of the common Whores of* Ardra.

SIR,

MY laſt bore date—— Since which Time I have not received any from you, tho' ſome Ships have arrived on the Coaſt ſince; ſo that indeed I am in doubt what to conclude concerning you, or what to aſcribe your not writing to; whether to neglect, too much Buſineſs, or Indiſpoſition: I would not encourage my ſelf to fear the laſt, and the ſecond is no Excuſe for not writing to a Friend, which is to be preferred before all Buſineſs. Wherefore, I ſhall take it for granted, that you are guilty of the firſt till you clear your ſelf very well, and make Satisfaction by a full charged Letter.

My former treated of Wars and the Arts of Deſtruction; and in this I ſhall touch upon a Subject which ſupplies the Devaſtations the other makes; that is, I ſhall inform you in the firſt place how their Marriages go here, and of every

Thing naturally falling under that Head. Marriage here is not overloaded with Ceremonies, nor have they any Notion of a previous Courtſhip to bring on a Match: Here are no tedious Diſputes on Account of Marriage Settlements: But if a *Negroe* fixes his Eye upon a young Woman (Virgin, I ſcarce dare ſay) nothing is more requiſite than to apply to her Father, Mother, or neareſt Relations, and ask her of them, who very ſeldom deny a Requeſt of that reaſonable Nature, if it be but the leaſt agreeable only to the Daughter.

If the young Woman is marriageable, he takes her Home with him, but if yet too young, he leaves her ſome time with her Parents; which ſome are not very willing to, for Reaſons hereafter to be told. The Bride brings no other Fortune than her Body, nor does the Man want much; 'tis ſufficient if he has enough to defray the Expence of the Wedding-Day; which conſiſts of a little Gold, Wine, Brandy, a Sheep for the Relations, and new Cloaths for the Bride, which are proportioned to the Circumſtances of the Bridegroom, who keeps a very exact Account of every Thing that he beſtows on the Bride or her Friends, that if ſhe ever comes to be ſo far diſguſted at him as to leave him, he may demand all again, which ſhe or her Friends muſt pay to the utmoſt Exactneſs, together with the Wedding Charges. But if he puts her away, the Account is ſettled, and he has no Pretence to demand any thing of her or her Relations, unleſs he produce very good Reaſons why he left her; in which caſe the mentioned Diſburſements muſt be refunded.

The Wedding-Day is not accompanied with Feaſting or Jollity; the Bride is ſomewhat extraordinary dreſs'd for ſeveral Days ſucceſſively with fine Cloaths, Gold and other Ornaments, which are frequently borrowed or hired on theſe Occaſions; not unlike thoſe in *Holland*, who to render

their

their Funeral Feaſts the more ſplendid, adorn themſelves with others Feathers. Each Man marries as many Wives as he pleaſes or is conſiſtent with his Circumſtances, though they ſeldom exceed twenty, but are commonly contented with a Number betwixt three and ten, and thoſe who would appear very great, compleat the mentioned Number of Twenty. Moſt of theſe Wives are obliged to till the Ground, Plant *Milbio* or *Jummes*, or otherwiſe work for their Husbands, and to take Care that he finds ſomething to eat when he comes Home; the beſt of which is, that they can very cheaply ſatisfie him: Whilſt the Man only idly ſpends his Time in impertinent Tattling (the Womens Buſineſs in our Country) and drinking of Palm-Wine, which the poor Wives are frequently obliged to raiſe Money to pay for, and by their hard Labour maintain and ſatisfy theſe lazy Wretches their greedy Thirſt after Wine. Tho' others are not quite ſo beaſtly, particularly the Traders in Palm-Wine, and Fiſher-men; the former of which ſell Palm-wine, and the latter either go out to fiſh, or hire themſelves to us to row according as Opportunity offers; and theſe keep Houſe the moſt peaceably and paſs the moſt reputably through the World.

Thoſe who are rich, have two Wives perpetually exempted from Labour; the firſt of which is the oldeſt and principal Wife, here called *Muliere Grande*, or the chief Woman, to whom the Houſekeeping and Command over all the reſt is intruſted. The ſecond is ſhe who is conſecrated to his God, and thence called *Boſſum*; of whom he is very jealous, and ſo much enraged if any Man kiſſes her, that if he could do it privately he would ſo ſeverely puniſh her that ſhe would not be able to ſerve him ſo again: But as for the Remainder of his Wives he doth not watch them ſo narrowly, eſpecially if he can get any Money by them.

Theſe

Theſe *Boſſums* are Slaves bought with Deſign to be conſecrated to their God, and therefore generally none of the moſt diſagreeable. With theſe they lye on their Birth-Day or Night, and that Day of the week dedicated to their God; ſo that they are ſure of a weekly Favour, ſuppoſing the Men in Condition; and 'tis on this Account that they eſteem their Fortune better than that of other Women.

The principal Merchants or Traders Wives are the happieſt, becauſe not obliged to much Labour out of the Houſe, and they are well provided for by their Huſbands.

Several *Negroes* are ſo Brutal that they marry many Wives only to get a good Living by 'em, and to wear gilt Horns. Theſe are truly contented Cuckolds, who give their Wives full Order to entice other Men to lye with them; which done, theſe She-Brutes immediately tell their Huſbands, who knows very well how to fleece the amorous Spark. 'Tis inexpreſſible what Subtleties theſe *Phædras* uſe to draw Men, but eſpecially Strangers, into the Net; to thoſe they will pretend they have no Huſband, and are yet unmarried and free: But the Job is no ſooner over than the Huſband appears, and gives them cogent Reaſons to repent their Credulity.

Others whoſe Admirers very well know they are married, the better to allure them to their Embraces, will promiſe, and if required, ſwear, Eternal Secrecy; but moſt of them keep their Words like Women, and are ſure not to tell their Huſband before they ſee him; and indeed 'twould fall very hard upon them if their Huſband came to the Knowledge thereof by any other means: which is ſome Excuſe for their diſcloſing their Lover; it being highly reaſonable and a natural Law, that a Woman ſhould further the Intereſt of her Huſband; ſince by this means they avoid the

Danger

Danger of Puniſhment, which they ought to expect from their Huſbands for Concealment. Ods foot, ſays the *German*, if this Faſhion prevailed in *Europe*, that a Woman might without Fear chooſe as many Deputies for her Huſband as ſhe pleaſed, to what a Bulk would *Acteon*'s Corporation grow: But I don't think it very convenient; for I have been informed that in the Southern Countries, this Society, without the mentioned Liberty, is grown ſo numerous, that they can ſcarce paſs the Streets without claſhing their Horns: But enough of this, 'tis too tender for my rough handling; wherefore leaving that I ſhall return to my Subject.

The Fine for lying with another Man's Wife amongſt the common People is about four, five or ſix Pounds Sterling: But the rich muſt bleed a greater Summ, eſpecially if he has lain with a conſiderable Man's Wife; on which Occaſion it coſts a hundred Pound or two.

Theſe Cauſes are very accurately pleaded and defended before the Courts of Judicature. I, during my Reſidence, acted the part of a chief Judge on this Occaſion above one hundred times. You know that to deny is the firſt Rule in Law; and the *Negroes* are ſo well skilled in this, that they commonly deny the Accuſation the firſt Thing they do, and oblige their Accuſers to confirm it by Evidence; which the Woman being moſt capable of, is obliged to appear in full Aſſembly, and diſplay the whole Action in its moſt natural broad Terms and Colours, with all its attending Circumſtances of time, place, how the Criminal deported himſelf, and what he gave her: In a word, without forgetting the leaſt Particular. What think you, Sir, is not this a rare Tryal, and very proper for the Ears of thoſe old Gentleman, of which this Aſſembly or Court is compoſed, eſpecially conſidering that beſides all this, ſometimes the Accuſed urges in his Defence, that 'tis true that he was indeed

indeed juſt ready to perpetrate the charged Crime, but timely thinking of the Conſequences, withdrew without reducing his Intentions to Action. In Anſwer to which, the Lady is obliged to declare all Particulars, and to give all poſſible Proofs of his compleating the Fact, inſomuch that both ſtick ſo cloſe to their Aſſertion, which they back with ſo much Probability, that the old Men are perplexed what Sentence to give without putting the Man to his Oath, and if he forſwears it he is clear; but if he refuſes that, Sentence paſſes againſt him, ſince on theſe Occaſions there are not many Witneſſes.

Married People here have no Community of Goods; but each hath his or her particular Propriety: The Man and his Wives generally adjuſt the Matter together; ſo that they are to bear the Charge of Houſe-keeping, while the Cloathing of the whole Family is at his ſole Expence.

On the Death of either the Man or the Wife, the reſpective Relations come and immediately ſweep away all, not leaving the Widow or Widower the leaſt part thereof, though they are frequently obliged to help to pay the Funeral Charges.

Some *Negroes*, beſides Wives, have alſo their Concubines, which they ſeveral times prefer before their Wives, and take more Care of them; but their Children are eſteemed illegitimate, and are not reckoned amongſt the Relations.

If a *Negroe* has a Child by his Slave, whether married to her or not, his Heir will look upon it and keep it only as a Slave, on which Account thoſe who loſe their Slaves will take Care to make their Children free with the uſual Ceremonies before they dye; after which they are in every particular treated as free Perſons.

The Children they have by their Wives are indeed legitimate, but all along the Gold Coaſt never inherit their Parents Effects, except at *Acra* only.

only. The eldeſt Son, ſuppoſing the Father a King or a Captain of a Town, ſucceeds him in his Office only; but beſides his Father's Shield and Sabre, he has nothing more to pretend to: So that 'tis here no manner of Advantage to be deſcended from rich Parents, unleſs (which ſeldom happens) Paternal Love obliges them to beſtow ſomewhat on their Children in their Life-time, which muſt be very privately done, otherwiſe the Relations after their Father's Death will oblige the Children to return it to the utmoſt Farthing.

The Right of Inheritance is very odly adjuſted, and as far as I could obſerve, the Brothers and Sifters Children are the right and lawful Heirs, in the manner following. They do not jointly inherit, but the eldeſt Son of his Mother is Heir to his Mothers Brother or her Son, as the eldeſt Daughter is Heireſs of her Mothers Sifter or her Daughter. Neither the Father himſelf or his Relations, as Brothers, Sifters, *&c.* have any Claim to the Goods of the Defunct, for what Reaſon they can't tell: But I am of Opinion that this Cuſtom was introduc'd on account of the Whoredom of the Women, herein following the Cuſtom of ſome *Eaſt-Indian* Kings, who, (as Authors ſay) educate their Sifters Son as their own, and appoint him to ſucceed in the Throne, becauſe they are more ſure that their Sifters Son is of their Blood than they can be of their own; for being obliged to truſt a Woman no way related to them, if ſhe commit Adultery, the Child may be entirely eſtranged from their Blood.

In the mentioned *Aſiatick* Countries, they are very careful to prevent their Kingdoms, Crowns and Eſtates deſcending on a ſtrange or baſtard Race: and as Honour and Reputation is more valuable than Goods, ſo I cannot help praiſing the *Indian* Caution, and believe you will declare on my ſide.

In

In deficiency of the mentioned Heirs, the Brothers or Sisters take place; but if none of them are in Being, then the nearest Relation to the Mother of the Defunct comes in. But their Account of this Subject is so perplexed and obscure, that hitherto no *European* has been able to obtain a clear Description of it, as I am certain they never will; notwithstanding that the *Negroes* are so accurately perfect in it, that they never commit any Error on this Head: Not but that great Disputes arise sometimes amongst them on this Occasion, but these are never owing to their Ignorance who is the Heir, but happen from the next Heir's being too potent in Men and Arms, and therefore stretching beyond the due Bounds of Inheritance.

I have already told you how many Wives the *Negroes* marry, and herein they place the greatest Glory and Grandeur, as their Riches consists in the Multitude of Slaves, though they frequently conduce to their Ruine, because every Man is obliged to make good the Injury which his Slave does; if he is guilty of Theft or Adultery, his Master is obliged to pay the Fine imposed for his Crime.

The *Negroes* are also responsible for their Sons, Nephews, and other Relations; tho' in this Case the Relations help each other by a mutual Contribution, each giving something towards it according to his Circumstances; which if he should not do, the Criminal would be condemned to Death or Slavery.

Having at large described the Marriages of the Coast *Negroes*, let us see how the In-land *Negroes* behave themselves in their Marriage-State, and what Punishment they inflict on Adultery; since freed from any Subjection to the *Europeans*, they are more severe on this Occasion.

He who debauches a *Negroes* Wife here is not only generally intirely ruined, but his Relations often suffer with him: For if the injured Person

be

be a rich and great Man, he is not contented with ruining the Malefactor only, but will not be quiet till he hath removed him out of the way. If the guilty Person is a Slave, his Death is undeniably determined, and that in the most cruel manner that can be devised, besides a Fine laid upon his Master; and the Men here detesting the foregoing sordid manner of Trading with their Wives usual on the Coast; a Woman caught in Adultety, is also in great danger of her Life, unless her Relations pacify the enraged Husband with a large Sum of Money. But she who lies with her Husbands Slave, is infallibly condemned to Death, as well as the Slave her Paramour: besides all which, her Relations are obliged to pay a Sum to her Husband.

Every considerable *Negroe* is in this case for the most part his own Judge; and is he too weak alone to avenge himself, he calls his Friends to his Assistance, who readily lend him their helping-hand, each being sure to get something of the Compensation which occurs.

These *Negroes* are richer than those who live amongst us; and therefore a Person guilty of this Crime is punished with utmost Severity. I have heard of Fines amounting to above five thousand Pounds Sterling paid on account of Adultery. Besides, *Acra*, *Apam* and *Coromantyn*, there are very few Places on the Gold-Coast where I have not lived, and I do not remember in any of them ever to have met with a *Negroe* who was possessed of so large a Fortune: or with any King but what after having sold all he had in the World to raise such a Sum, would find himself not able to do it: But when I talk at this rate, I would except the King of *Aquamboe*, and according to report also him of *Acron*; which two being joined, possess more Gold than all the rest together.

Notwithstanding that in the In-land Country the Punishment extends as well to the Woman as to the Man;

Man; yet it by no means deters the Woman from the practice of it: And, indeed, 'tis not much to be wonder'd, if we conſider that the Women are of a Nature ſo much hotter than the Men, and that ten or twenty are frequently obliged to content themſelves with one Man amongſt them, who is frequently inſufficient for one of them: Wherefore they are continually contriving how to gain a Lover, and would rather ſuffer Death than forbear the delicious Sin: And becauſe the Men out of Fear of the Puniſhment, are not eaſily enclined to commit this Crime, the Women omit no Stratagem which can allure them. They are ſo very fiery, that if they can get a young Man alone they will tear the Cloaths off of his indecent Parts, and throw themſelves upon him; ſwearing, that if he will not yield to their Deſires, they will accuſe him to their Husband of Attempts to violate their Chaſtity. And tho' the Youth were as chaſt as *Joſeph*, and but ſeen in this Poſture, it would not avail to alledge that he came there by ſurprize; not he, but the Woman would be believed; and to what a pitch the enraged Hatred, or rather the wild Frenzy of a diſatisfied and deſpiſed Woman would hurry her, but too plainly appears by numerous Inſtances.

Others of theſe warm Ladies narrowly watch the Place where the Perſon on whom they caſt their luſtful Eye is uſed to ſleep: and if they can ſurprize him, they ſteal to, and lay themſelves ſoftly down by him without his Knowledge; ſoon after which awaking him, they uſe all their Arts to excite him to gratifie their Paſſions; and if all prove in vain, they aſſure him that they will make ſuch a Noiſe as ſhall occaſion their being ſurpriz'd together: After which, his Death will be inevitable. Farther to allure him, ſhe proteſts that ſhe is come hither without the Knowledge of any Perſon, and that ſhe can retire without the leaſt Suſpicion of her Husband or any Body elſe: The Youth thus caught, is

obliged

obliged to ſatisfie her Luſt to free himſelf of her: If it continues a Secret, they continue in the Repetition of their Crime, 'till it burſts into diſcovery, and they receive their Reward. The Men, who by this means, come to their End, are really to be pity'd, and the Women indeed deſerve ſome tender thoughts; for they being Fleſh and Blood as the Men, and liable to the ſame Weakneſs, 'tis hard the Men ſhould have ſuch a Prerogative over them. If I know you well, I believe that if theſe poor Wretches Caſe were left to you and me, we ſhould make good and honourable Proviſion, that their Grievances ſhould be ſo far redreſs'd, as they ſhould remain fully ſatisfied.

'Tis undeniable that Jealouſie is always accompanied with Love; theſe two Paſſions being ſo inſeparable, that tho' they produce contrary Effects, yet they ſeem in reality but the ſame Thing. But however jealous the Black Women are of their Husbands, yet they have no Satisfaction to pretend to, if their Husbands by diverting themſelves with other Women, rob them of their Right; their only Remedy is to wean him from this Vice, by agreeable, ſoft, and tender Means; for none of them beſides his chief Wife, dare pretend to chide him for it: She, indeed, when Opportunity offers, will charge him ſeverely on that account, and threaten him that if he purſues that Courſe ſhe will leave him: but this muſt be when the Man is in a good Humour, otherwiſe he won't take it very well.

Before I advance any farther, I ought to inform you, that all I impart to you concerning the Inland *Negroes*, is not the Reſult of my own Obſervation, I never having been at thoſe places; but is only collected from the Relation of the *Negroes* that come from thence: but they are ſuch People, that in this and other Things I dare aſſure my ſelf of the Truth of what they ſay. However I don't hand it to you as my own.

Each Wife is ſure to do her beſt to pleaſe and charm her Husband, in order to be preferr'd above the reſt in his love, and to ſecure to her ſelf the greateſt ſhare of Matrimonial Favours, which chiefly depends on the Man's Pleaſure; tho' they generally ſettle an equal Diſtribution (to prevent Diſpute;) ſo that each Wife is obliged in her Turn. If ſhe whoſe Turn it is, is a Favourite, ſhe lies with her Husband the whole Night; but otherwiſe when her Turn is paſt, tho' perhaps equally ſatisfied with *Tantalus*, ſhe is obliged to retire.

The Wife, who is ſo fortunate as to be big with Child, is very much reſpected by her Husband, and waited on; beſides which, if it is the firſt time, rich Offerings are made to the Falſe-God, to obtain her ſafe Delivery. The Ceremonies uſed on occaſion of a Womans being big with the firſt Child, are very fooliſh and ridiculous. As ſoon as they find themſelves pregnant, they are brought to the Sea-ſhore in order to be waſhed; tho' before ſhe can get thither, ſhe is followed by a great Number of Boys and Girls, who fling all manner of Dung and Filth at her in her way to the Sea, where ſhe is ducked and waſhed clean. Why this is done I can't tell, unleſs it be becauſe they vainly believe, that if it is omitted, the Mother, the Child, or ſome of the Relations, will certainly die ſoon after.

As ſoon as the Child is born, and the Prieſt has conſecrated it, if above the common Rank, it hath three Names beſtowed on it (tho' always called by one;) the firſt is that of the Day of the Week on which it was born; the next, if a Son, is his Grandfathers, if a Girl, her Grandmothers Name; tho' this is not ſtrictly obſerved by the *Negroes*, ſome of them giving their own or the Names of ſome of their Relations to their Children: After which their Names increaſe with their Years; has any Perſon behav'd himſelf valiantly in the War, he obtains a Name derived from thence, as he doth by killing a Chief-

a Chieftain of the Enemies: Does he kill a wild Ravenous Beaſt, he gets a new Name by it. But 'twould be a Day's work to recite all their Names, and the Occaſions of them; 'tis ſufficient to tell you, that the Number given to ſome Men amounts to Twenty: The Chief of which, and by which he is moſt honoured, is that given him when they are drinking Palm-Wine together in the Market-place. The common Name by which they are called, is one of thoſe given them at their Birth. Some are called after the Number of Children that their Mother has born, as the eighth, the ninth, or tenth Child; but this is only when the Mother has born above ſix or ſeven Children.

In the Country of *Ante* if a Woman has born ten Children, ſhe is obliged to be ſeparated from her Husband, and live in a ſolitary Hut remote from all the reſt of Mankind, for the ſpace of a whole Year, where ſhe is carefully furniſhed with all Neceſſaries of Life; after the expiration of this Term, and the performance of all cuſtomary Ceremonies, ſhe returns to her Husband, and lives with him as before: This is a Cuſtom ſo particular; that I don't know any Nation beſides where 'tis in uſe; and why 'tis practiſed here I am alſo ignorant, unleſs it be grounded on ſome ſuperſtitious Opinion, that it will defend them from ſome Evil.

When the Cuſtom of Women is upon the Female Sex, they are not only eſteemed unclean and ſeparated from their Husband, but they are not ſuffered to go into another Man's Houſe, at leaſt to lodge, and are conſequently obliged to remain in a ſmall Hut near their Father's or Husband's Houſe.

The Children are not circumciſed any where on the Gold Coaſt, but at *Acra*. But whence the Cuſtom of holding Women unclean, and Circumciſing of Children, ſhould be derived from, I own I cannot tell; to carry it up as high as the *Judaic* Times, ſeems to me too far: Tho' ſeveral *Europeans* favour

this Aſſertion, urging, that the *Negroes* ſtill retain ſeveral Laws and Cuſtoms which ſavour of *Judaiſm*, as laſt mentioned, the honouring of the Moon at the time when the *Jews* begin their Feſtival, their marrying of their Brother's Wife, and ſeveral more, which ſeem the ſame in effect, as well as the Names, of which here are ſeveral which occur in the Old Teſtament. But all this cannot in the leaſt incline me to their Opinion: I ſhould be more eaſily perſwaded that they had all theſe from the *Mahometans*, whoſe Religion is a mere Rhapſody of Chriſtianity, *Judaiſm* and *Heatheniſm*; which extending it ſelf from one Country to another, might probably reach hither: this Conjecture being conſiderably ſtrengthned from the Natives of *Ardra* and *Fida*, their being cuſtomed to Trade ſeveral hundred Miles In-land 'till they come to the *Barbary*-Coaſt; and not improbably to the *Moors* Country. Which being granted, 'tis not unnatural to ſuppoſe they may have learned and brought home ſome Fragments of their Religion.

But to return to our Subject. Several of each Sex here live Unmarried, at leaſt for ſome time, tho' commonly the Number of ſingle Women exceeds that of ſingle Men; and that for Reaſons hereafter to be told; and yet very few *Negroes* die, unleſs it be very young, Unmarried. The Men marry as ſoon as they can raiſe Money to defray the Wedding-Charges; which being ſo very inconſiderable among the common People, they get a Wife very ſoon. The Children of the Chief or Rich People, whoſe Relations are inclined to it, and want no Money, are frequently married before they become acquainted with the diſtinction of Sexes: Further, ſeveral Families willing to be more nearly ally'd, interchangeably marry their Children as ſoon as they are born, without any other Ceremony than the agreement of Parents on both Sides.

The

The Reaſons why the Women here continue longeſt unmarried, is, firſt, becauſe that they live a more free and pleaſant Life, than when married, being now at perfect Liberty to admit the Embraces of any or ſeveral Men, if they pleaſe. Theſe ſort of Women generally marry amongſt common People, and ſeldom content themſelves with their Husbands alone.

The ſecond Reaſon is, the vaſt Multitude of Women; their Number much exceeds that of the Men, which obliges them to ſtay till they are asked. Tho' this long waiting becomes leſs Irkſome, becauſe it is no manner of Scandal to ſtay their Appetites as often as they think fit: Nor are they therefore rudely accounted Whores; but on the contrary, are always thought as fitting to be choſe for Wives as any other; and accordingly in their Turn get Husbands as well as the reſt.

In the Countries of *Eguira*, *Abocroe*, *Ancober*, *Axim*, *Ante* and *Adom*, are ſeveral Women who never marry, and who only are called Whores; being initiated in that Trade in the following manner.

When the *Manceroes* find they want a common Whore, they go and petition the *Caboceroes* that they will pleaſe graciouſly to buy one for the Publick: Upon which they buy a beautiful Female Slave, or elſe the *Manceroes* buy one themſelves. The Woman ſo bought, is brought to the publick Market-place, accompanied with another already experienc'd in that Trade, in order to inſtruct her how ſhe ſhould deport her ſelf for the future: Which being perfectly accompliſhed, the Novice is ſmeared all over with Earth, and ſeveral Offerings offered for her Succeſs in her future Occupation. This over, a little Boy, yet immature for Love Affairs, makes a Feint, or Repreſentation of lying with her before all the People; by which 'tis hinted to her, that from this time forwards, ſhe is obliged to receive all Perſons indiſtinguiſhable

who offer themſelves to her, not excepting little Boys. Then a little out of the way, a ſmall Hut is built for her; in which ſhe is obliged to confine her ſelf for eight or ten Days, and lie with every Man who comes thither: After which, ſhe obtains the Honourable Name of *Abclore* or *Abelecre*, ſignifying a common Whore; and ſhe has a dwelling-place aſſigned her near one of her Maſters, or in a particular Place in the Town, ſhe being for the Remainder of her Life obliged to refuſe no Man the uſe of her Body, tho' he offers never ſo ſmall a Sum; which ſeldom amounts to above one Penny; and if any Body is ſo well pleaſed with his Entertainment, as to give more, 'tis owing to his Civility, for he is not obliged to it.

Each of the above-mentioned Towns, has two or three of theſe miſerable Wretches, according to their Largeneſs. The Money that they get they bring to their Maſters, who return them ſo much out of it as is neceſſary to ſubſiſt them in Cloaths and Neceſſaries.

Theſe Women are very miſerable when they have caught any Venereal Infection: From which they ſeldom eſcape long-free; for proſtituting themſelves as well to the unſound as ſound, they are in continual danger; and being once ſeized by that Diſtemper, it muſt takes its courſe; for it ſeldom happens that any Body is touched with any Concern for her, not ſo much as her own Maſter to whom ſhe belongs: For as ſoon as the Gain begins to ceaſe, they withdraw their Hands, and never ſo much as take the leaſt Care of her; and thus theſe unhappy Creatures come to a miſerable End.

But as long as they are Sound and in their Flower, they are in very great Eſteem: And 'tis impoſſible to afflict a Land or Town more ſenſibly than by ſeizing theſe Creatures. For Example, if our Factor at *Axim* have any Diſpute with his Subordinate *Negroes*, no way will more effectually bring

bring them to Reaſon than by taking one of theſe Whores into Cuſtody, and confining her in the Fort: For as ſoon as this News reaches the *Manceroes* Ears, they go with flying Sails to the *Caboceroes*, and earneſtly deſire them to give the Factor Satisfaction, that they may have their Whores ſet at liberty again; urging as a Reaſon why they requeſt it in ſuch a preſſing manner, that during their Impriſonment, thoſe Men who have no Wives, will be put to the utmoſt Neceſſity for a Woman, and be prompted to run the Danger of lying with Mens Wives. This I can aſſure you of the Truth of by my own Experience, having had more than one Proof of it; for at one time ſecuring five or ſix *Cabocero's*, and at the other two or three Whores, I found hardly any Body beſides their own Relations concerned for the former; but on account of the other, the whole Village came upon their Knees; and every Body, though he had no particular Intereſt in it, was very much concerned for their Liberty.

The Countries of *Commany*, *Elmina*, *Fetu*, *Saboe*, *Fantyn*, &c. have none of theſe Whores, and yet a young Rake is not much put to it, for there is no want of Unmarried Women, and they without any diſtinction, than that of being too young, are almoſt all Whores, tho' they indeed don't bear that Name, and can diſpute the Price of their Favours, as not being obliged to beſtow them on every Perſon who asks them, but according to their own Inclination. But indeed, as to the Price, they are ſo very reaſonable, that they ſeldom occaſion any diſpute on that Head: And if this is not ſufficient Relief for the young Sparks, there are yet old Matrons who breed up whole Schools full of the handſomeſt they can find for their uſe.

In *Fida* and the Country about it, and in all the Land of *Fida*, is a very great plenty of theſe Whores, and at a cheaper price than on the Gold Coaſt. In

Fida I have ſeen a vaſt Multitude of Huts, not above ten Feet long and ſix broad, placed near the great Roads throughout the whole Country; in which thoſe Women are obliged to ply at their appointed Days in the Week for the Relief of all Perſons: And theſe Countries being very populous, the Slaves vaſtly numerous, and the married Women kept up very ſtrict; theſe Whores on thoſe Days muſt of neceſſity be well tired: I have been aſſured that ſome of them hath lain with thirty Men on a Day. If *Livia* was alive, I ſhould ask her, whether this is not ſufficient to ſatisfie them; but as being my ſelf ignorant, I ſhall not venture to determine.

What I have related ſeems indeed incredible; and yet no Body doubts it in the leaſt here: Their common price is three little Shells, called *Boeſſes*, and by us *Caurits*, worth here about a Farthing. This is an eſtabliſhed Price; out of which they are obliged to ſubſiſt themſelves, and beſides may work on other Days if they pleaſe; for as no Body has any Propriety in them here, ſo they have no Superviſors, nor are they ſolemnly initiated on the Gold Coaſt: But 'tis cuſtomary for ſome of the moſt conſiderable and rich *Negroe* Ladies, when lying upon their Death-bed, to buy ſome of theſe Foreign Female Slaves, and make a Preſent of them to the Publick; which theſe tender-hearted Gentlwomen take for a great work of Mercy and Charity, as ſome People in *Europe* do the buying Maſſes for the Souls in Purgatory: Which is moſt effectual, I will not pretend to determine; but leaving the latter to take care of themſelves, I ſhall only inform you that theſe Ladies firmly believe, without the leaſt doubt, they ſhall receive their Reward for this in the other Life; and the more Whores they buy for the Publick, the greater Reward they promiſe themſelves.

The

The latter End of theſe Whores is much the ſame with thoſe on the Gold Coaſt, wretched and miſerable, and rather to a greater degree; they being here obliged to a more Fatigue, and conſequently ſooner infected and worn out, and conſequently are ſmothered in *Acheron*'s Pool very young; and ſeldom arriving to a moderate Age.

Thus I have detain'd you a tedious while on the Marriages of the *Negroes*, and expoſed to your view all our Venereal Ware-houſes, and all their contain'd Stores. I ſhould find my ſelf very much deceived, if my manner of handling this Subject throughout ſhould in the leaſt diſguſt you: For had I the leaſt Reaſon to believe you tainted with any obſolete preciſe Affectation, I would, though I had committed a ſort of Violence on my ſelf, have treated theſe Matters in a much graver manner: But I cannot belive you ſo ſoon or ſo much alter'd; this Subject being naturally ſomewhat Luſcious, I remember that formerly we uſed to talk on it in a rallying manner, leaving the ſerious Diſcuſſion of it to theſe ſly Hypocrites who had rather act than talk. Still Waters have deep Bottoms: And this is the true Reaſon why being obliged to ſpeak of theſe Matters, I choſe to do it in a ſort of Railery, which did not uſe to prove diſagreeable to either of us. And accordingly I cannot doubt your Approbation in your Anſwer to this; aſſuring you nothing ſhall ever be wanting on my part to continue me your Friend.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE Gold Coaſt OF GUINEA.

To which is added,

A Juſt Repreſentation OF THE *SLAVE TRADE*,

And a general Account of the Slave Coaſt, the Country of *Ardra*: Together with a circular *Tour* made by the Author in the Year 1698. to *Rio de Gabon*, *Cabo-Lopez*, *di Conſalvez*, the Iſlands of St. *Tome* and *Annaboa*; and his Return to the Gold Coaſt.

PART II.

A Deſcription of the Gold Coaſt, &c.

LETTER. XIII.

How the Negroes *deport themſelves to the Sick. They do not depend on Medicinal Remedies alone; but make Offerings to their Gods on account of the Sick: What theſe conſiſt of. Their Gratitude to Phyſicians; which they frequently change, and renew their Offerings. The Slaves alſo make Offerings for their* European *Maſters; and the* Mulatto *Women for their Husbands: which is likewiſe approved by ſome* Europeans. *Their uſual Remedies; which tho' they ſeem contradictory to the Ends, for which they are adminiſtred, yet frequently ſucceed. The great Efficacy of green Vegetables in Diſeaſes, and even in Wounds. The Enquiry after the Cauſe of any Perſons Death. Their Queſtions put to the Dead, and their Falſe-God; with the Reſponſes. An Accident on that Account which befel one of the Author's Servants. The Aſſertion of ſome who affirm that the* Negroes *ask Advice of the Devil, confuted: And a Relation how their Queſtions to the Dead are managed. The ſhaving of the Women on Occaſion of the Death of their Husbands: Cleanſing the dead Body. A Deſcription of their manner of burying the Dead. Pompous Funerals of the principal People. How they preſerve the Corps from rotting ſeveral Months above Ground. Living Men ſacrific'd for the Dead: The Cruelty attending that Cuſtom, as the Author himſelf has obſerv'd. Their building of a Hut on the Grave; and the Opinion of ſome Writers on that Subject contradicted. The Funeral Ceremonies renewed one Year after the Deceaſe. The* Negroes *very deſirous to be buryed in their own Country, or at leaſt that their Bones may be brought thither; and how that is managed.*

SIR,

SINCE my laſt, and about a Month paſt, I was honoured with yours of the 25th —— 'Tis a common Proverb, that *long Faſting never ſaves Bread*; the Truth of which I find at preſent confirm'd: I can ſee by your Letter, that you made Uſe of the Pen of a ready Writer, and that the Com-

Complaints of my laſt were very ſeaſonable; and cannot but acknowledge full Satisfaction, without giving you any further Trouble in excuſing your Negligence. I am glad you and your Lady are well in Health, and pray Heaven you may both ſo continue for a long Series of Years.

'Tis very agreeable News to me, that you have received mine of —— and the reſt, which with the four former compleat the Account of that part of the Coaſt; and are alſo ſatisfied with my manner of deſcribing our Trade there. and which is yet more, ſeem to agree with my Opinion, and promiſe to propoſe my Sketch of Improvements and Amendments to the Companies Conſideration: I wiſh both you and it a favourable Reception at their Board, and hope they will make ſuch Reſolutions as ſhall undoubtedly tend to the good of that Society.

I am not at all ſurprized that the Government of the Coaſt ſeems very unaccountable to you; I doubt not but every one who hears of it will be touched with your Sentiments of it. I cannot but praiſe your Deſign, and heartily wiſh its good Succeſs; otherwiſe I ſhould be very ſorry, not only that I had hinted it to you, but that you ſhould take ſo much Pains to no Purpoſe: However I hope for the beſt, and that I ſhall ſoon be informed of your Progreſs therein.

The Letters which I have ſent you ſince thoſe you have already received of mine, are five in number. Treating of, 1. The Inſalubrity of this Country, and wherein it conſiſts; 2. Treats concerning the Nature of the Inhabitants at large: 3. Of their Religion: 4. Of their Government, Wars, Power of their Kings; which is followed by the fifth and laſt, treating of their Marriages, *&c.* I hope you have received ſome of them before now, and that the remainder will follow in due time; but

but for fear any ſhould unhappily miſcarry, I herewith ſend you the Copies of them.

Death being the Period of all humane Affairs, I ſhall conclude my Deſcription of theſe Nations, with a ſhort Diſcuſſion of that Subject; after which you will not be troubled with any more than three Letters from me; one concerning the wild and tame Quadrupedes of this Country, the ſecond of the Fowls, Inſects and Fiſhes, and the laſt of Vegetables: Unleſs I can think of any other thing, and then you may be ſure not to fail of it.

But to return to our Deſign. Let us examine what Cuſtoms are uſual amongſt the *Negroes* on Occaſion of Sickneſs, Death and Burying.

Any *Negroe* falling ſick here is diligently enough attended, in proportion to his Circumſtances: For, as I have formerly hinted, they are all very much afraid of Death; in which they are not much in the wrong, conſidering that but once to die, is for ever to be buried in Oblivion. Actuated by this Principle, they leave no means uneſſayed which may contribute to the extending the Thread of Life to as great a length as poſſible: And had they the ſame Notion of the three fatal Siſters as the antient *Greeks*, I doubt not but theſe would have been the Goddeſſes to which the greateſt part of their Offerings would have been directed.

In Sickneſs (in which they agree with all the reſt of the World) they firſt have Recourſe to Remedies: However, not thinking them ſufficient alone to preſerve Life and reſtore Health, they apply their falſe and ſuperſtitious religious Worſhip, as more effectual to thoſe Ends: And what contributes to the Promotion of this Cuſtom, is, that he who here acts the part of a Doctor, is alſo a *Feticheer* or Prieſt; who conſequently does not find it very difficult to perſwade the Patient's Relations, that he cannot be recovered without ſome Offerings

ings made to the FalſeGod in order to appeaſe him: And they being ſtrongly bent to Superſtition, and and immediately ready to follow the Prieſt's Advice, accordingly deſire him to enquire of their God what he would pleaſe to have. The Prieſt to be ſure is not negligent in this Affair, where the Profit accrues to him; but as ſoon as poſſible puts his Cheats in Practice; and after his pretended Enquiry, he informs them that they muſt offer a Sheep, Hog, Cock, Dog, Cat, or whatever he likes beſt; which ſometimes may be Gold, Cloath, Drink, and other ſuch like good things beſides; which are always proportioned to the Ability of the Perſon to be ſerved; for that alters the Meaſure of theſe Cheats, who always conſider whether the Man be in Condition to bear this Charge: And herein they are indeed to be preferred to ſome *Romiſh* Prieſts, whoſe indiſtinguiſhing exorbitant Price of Soul-Maſſes ruins ſeveral Families.

Whatever the Prieſt requires, the *Negroes* freely part with; and he knows to what uſe to put it. If the Patient ſhortly after recovers, either by Virtue of Nature's kindly Aſſiſtance, or the Efficacy of the Medicines adminiſtred, the Prieſt or Doctor is ſure not to remain unrewarded: For whatever Mr. *William Godſchalk-van-Fockenbrog* may pretend, that when cured, the Sight of the Doctor and the Devil are equally welcome to them; they on the contrary are very far from Ingratitude on theſe Occaſions.

And indeed his Senſe turn'd quite contrary, is rather true of them, they being no ſooner recovered, but they extol their Phyſician up to the Heavens.

But does the Diſeaſe increaſe and the Patient grow worſe; freſh Offerings are made, which are more expenſive than the former: So that theſe continue till the Patient is reſtored to his priſtine Health or dyes.

It

It frequently happens that one Phyſician is diſcharged with a good Reward, and another called in his ſtead, who begins a-new, and knows very well how to make his Advantage of his Patient's Misfortune.

His firſt Buſineſs, juſt like the Phyſicians in *Europe*, is to condemn his Predeceſſor's Method, and decry him as an ignorant Pretender: Upon which new and very expenſive Offerings are to be made; for this new Comer fearing the Fate of him in whoſe Place he came, endeavours to make as great Advantage as is poſſible in his Time; to this End he makes Uſe of ſuch cunning Frauds, that our *Europeans*, though bad enough, would be put out of Countenance by 'em. But pray, Sir, don't take this to be aimed at you: No, it cannot touch the honeſt Phyſician, and ſuch I take you for.

This Change of Phyſicians ſometimes happens twenty times or more ſucceſſively, and at a continual and greater Charge than with us; the *Negroes* are ſo ſtrangely bigotted to theſe Offerings, that they ſeveral times force the Prieſts to make them.

The Boys, which are either Slaves or Servants to the *Europeans*, if they think they have a good Maſter, will as ſoon as he is ſeized by the leaſt Indiſpoſition, without his Knowledge, go to the Prieſts to make Offerings for him, that he may recover his Health: And accordingly we have found upon the Beds or in the Chambers of our principal People, ſome things conſecrated or charmed by the Prieſt, laid there on purpoſe to defend their Maſter from Death: And becauſe they know we are always diſpleaſed at it, they always do it in private, and conceal it ſo well, that 'tis impoſſible for us to diſcover it before the Perſon is dead, and they have had no time to remove it.

The *Mulatto* Women (of whom I have formerly ſaid ſomething) who would fain paſs for Chriſtians, than

than which they are nothing leſs, are extravagantly addicted to this Superſtition: If one of them is married to or kept by an *European*, who loves and pays her well; if he fall ſick, ſhe never fails to make rich Offerings to the Prieſt, with much warmer Zeal and ſtronger Reliance on the Succeſs of them, than the *Negroes* themſelves: But what is moſt deplorable and deteſtable, is, that here are even ſome *Europeans*, who not only think favourably of, and believe this Idolatrous Worſhip effectual, but inſtigate their Servants to it; and are likewiſe grown very fond of wearing ſome Trifles about their Bodies, which are conſecrated or conjured by the Prieſt.

The chief Medicaments here in Uſe, are firſt and more eſpecially Limon or Lime-Juice, Malaget, otherwiſe called the Grains of Paradiſe, or the Cardamom, the Roots, Branches, and Gumms of Trees, about thirty ſeveral Sorts of green Herbs, which are impregnated with an extraordinary Sanative Virtue.

The Remedies uſed here frequently ſeem pernicious in the Caſe wherein they are given, and yet are found very ſucceſsful, as an Inſtance of which pleaſe to take one of the moſt common Medicaments.

In caſe of a violent Cholick, they give to drink Morning and Evening for ſeveral Days ſucceſſively, a goodCalabaſh of Lime Juice and Malaget mixt, and in other Diſeaſes full as contradictory Ingredients. But this is out of my Province to talk of theſe Things: Wherefore I ſhall rather leave it to you and others, better Judges than my ſelf; and only add, that how contradictory and improper ſoever theſe Med'cines may ſeem, yet I have ſeen ſeveral of our Country Men cured by them, when our own Phyſicians were at a Loſs what to do.

The green Herbs, the principal Remedy in uſe amongſt the *Negroes*, are of ſuch wonderful Efficacy,

cy, that 'tis much to be deplored that no *European* Phyſicians has yet applyed himſelf to the Diſcovery of their Nature and Virtue; for I don't only imagine, but firmly believe, that they would prove more ſucceſsful in the Practice of Phyſick than the *European* Preparations, eſpecially in this Country, becauſe before they reach us they have loſt all their Virtue, and are moſtly corrupted: Beſides which, our Conſtitution is in ſome Meaſure changed here by the Climate; and therefore this Country Remedies, in all probability, are better for our Bodies than the *European*.

Thoſe who are to come to this Country, may, if they pleaſe, endeavour to explore theſe Plants; for my part I ſhall here take my Leave of them, with only informing you, the better to evince the ſtrange Efficacy of theſe Herbs, that I have ſeveral Times obſerved the *Negroes* cure ſuch great and dangerous Wounds with them, that I have ſtood amazed thereat.

After all the abovementioned Methods have been tryed and prove ineffectual, and the Patient expires; this furniſhes his Relations with freſh Buſineſs; they are now to enquire into his Death, or why he would dye: For though 'tis probable and apparent that he dyed a Natural Death, occaſioned either by Sickneſs, extreme old Age, Wounds, or ſome mortal Diſtemper, this will not ſatisfie them in the leaſt; it muſt certainly proceed from ſome other Cauſe, according to the Proverb, *Death is never without a Cauſe*; which is no where in the World better believed than here. Immediately the Prieſt and the Relations muſt enquire whether the deceaſed was ever perjured in his Life; if he was, they believe they have diſcovered the Cauſe of his Death, which was a Puniſhment to the Perjury: But if he be found innocent of this, the next Inqueſt to be made is, whether he had any powerful Enemies, who may have laid *Fetiche's* in

his Way, which might occaſion his Death (theſe *Fetiches* I have before deſcribed;) upon which ſometimes ſome of his Enemies are attacked and examined very cloſely; and if he has been accuſtomed to ſuch Practices, tho' never ſo long paſt, he will hardly come off with a whole Skin.

I cannot here paſs by what happened to my ſelf eight Years paſt, when I was at *Axim*: I was adviſed, in order to the Advancement of the Companies Trade, to ſend a Meſſenger to the King of *Dinkira*; in purſuance of which, I ſent one of my Servants with a handſome Preſent to him, who received him and the Preſent very civilly, and was very well pleaſed with both. The *Brandenburghers* had alſo ſent one of their young Men with a Preſent to him at the ſame time; whom this King received, as well as his Preſent, with very great Marks of Friendſhip, he deſiring to live in a good Underſtanding with the *Europeans*. Both theſe Servants waited at this Prince's Court, expecting that he by the firſt Convenience ſhould diſpatch them both to their Maſters; but after reſiding there in Expectation about ſix Weeks in vain, he died: Which Accident expoſed their Lives to the utmoſt Danger; for the Relations of the Deceaſed, ridiculouſly ſuppoſing they had occaſioned his Death, ſeized and bound them; after which they made Enquiry by their Prieſts whether the Preſent they brought were not poyſoned or conjured: But theſe Cheats were at this Time ſo honeſt that in Appearance, according to their religious Rites, they pronounced them innocent, and declared them free; upon which they were immediately releaſed, and delivered from their dreaded Death, and afterwards diſpatched back to us with Preſents. By this you may ſee how we fall into Danger here in this Country, without the leaſt Reaſon to ſuſpect or fear it. But now to return where I left off.

If there be no Suſpicion of Poyſon, then Enquiry is made if his Wives, Children and other Perſons about him, and his Slaves, have attended him with due Care, or been liberal enough in their Offerings: But if no deficiency can be here found, and conſequently the Cauſe of the Perſon's Death is yet undiſcovered; then they have Recourſe to the moſt common and laſt Refuge, which is always at Hand; the Man died becauſe he was deficient in the Performance of his Religious Rites; which we have already deſcribed at large.

Then the Prieſt goes to the dead Perſon and asks him why he died: If you ask, who is the Reſponſor, I believe that *Simon de Ures*, who always brings the Devil in for a ſhare of the Play, as very frequently converſing with Men, would ſay, or rather ſwear, that he, in the ſhape of the deceaſed or their falſe God, makes the Anſwer: But if you would have my Sentiments, I really believe the Dead, the Devil, and the Falſe God, are all three equally dumb, and therefore uncapable of anſwering,: But the true Anſwerer is the roguiſh Prieſt himſelf only; who informs the Relations as it beſt ſuits his Intereſts, that his God and the Dead have made ſuch Anſwers; which to be ſure, as before, are thoſe which, agree beſt with their Ends, and ſeem to have the greateſt Appearance of Truth. This deciſive Anſwer of the Prieſt paſſes for unqueſtionable Truth; and according to what he ſays they always adjuſt their Affairs.

But now I remember, that I have found it in a certain Author, or rather more than one, laid down as a poſitive Aſſertion, that the *Negroes* in doubtful Caſes directly apply themſelves to the Devil, and ask Advice of him, governing themſelves according to his Anſwer: But on my own Experience, I can aſſure you that 'tis utterly falſe and groundleſs; and what is moſt commendable in them, is, that they do not deſire ſuch a near Ac-

quaintance with the Devil; and all their Queſtions of Moment in time of need, are addreſſed to their Falſe God, or rather in effect to their Prieſts, without ever ſo much as thinking of the Devil or his Attendants; much leſs in hidden or doubtful Caſes do they ask Advice of him, or oblige themſelves to ſquare their Affairs to the Rule of his Anſwer.

The cuſtomary Queſtions to the dead are put in ſeveral Manners: For Inſtance, ſome Men take the dead Body in preſence of the Prieſt upon their Shoulders; and then 'tis aſked, Did not you dye for ſuch a Cauſe? If he did, the Men who hold him, by I know not what hidden Impulſe, are obliged to incline the Body towards the Querent; which is taken for an affirmative Anſwer: otherwiſe they ſtand ſtill.

As ſoon as the ſick Perſon is expired, they ſet up ſuch a diſmal Crying, Lamentation and Squeaking, that the whole Town is filled with it; by which 'tis ſoon publiſhed that ſome Body is lately dead: beſides which, the Youth of the Deceaſed's Acquaintance generally pay their laſt Duty of Reſpect to him, by firing ſeveral Muſquet-Shot.

If the deceaſed be a Man, his Wives immediately ſhave their Heads very cloſe, and ſmear their Bodies with white Earth, and put on an old worn-out Garment; thus adjuſted they run about the Street like mad Women, or rather She-Furies, with their Hair hanging upon their Cloaths; withal making a very diſmal and lamentable Noiſe, continually repeating the Name of the Dead, and reciting the great Actions of his paſt Life: And this confuſed tumultuary Noiſe of the Women laſts ſeveral Days ſucceſſively, even till the Corps is buried.

If a principal Man is killed in Battle, and his Companions have no Opportunity, by reaſon of the continuance of the War, to ſecure, hide or bury his Body (for the Funeral Rites muſt be performed in their own Country) his Wives are then obliged in all

all that Interval, to be in Mourning, and a ſhorn Head, though they permit the Hair to grow again where Modeſty does not allow me to ſpeak more plainly.

A long time after, perhaps ten or twelve Years, as Opportunity offers, the Funeral Ceremonies are renewed, with the ſame Pomp and Splendour as if they had died a few Days paſt: On which Occaſion all his Wives again put on their Mourning, cleanſe and adjuſt themſelves as before.

Whilſt the Women are lamenting abroad, the neareſt Relations ſit by the Corps making a diſmal Noiſe, waſhing and cleanſing themſelves, and farther performing the uſual Ceremonies: The diſtant Relations alſo aſſemble from all Places, to be preſent at theſe Mourning Rites; he that is negligent herein being ſure to bleed very freely if he cannot urge lawful Reaſons for his Abſence.

The Towns People and Acquaintance of the Deceaſed, come alſo to join their Lamentations, each bringing his Preſent of Gold, Brandy, fine Cloath, Sheets, or ſomething elſe; which 'tis pretended is given to be carried to the Grave with the Corps; and the larger Preſent of this Nature any Perſon makes, the more it redounds to his Honour and Reputation.

During this Ingreſs and Egreſs of all ſorts of People; Brandy in the Morning and Palm-Wine in the Afternoon are very briskly filled about; ſo that a rich *Negroes* Funeral becomes very chargeable: For after all this, they are richly cloathed when put into the Coffin; beſides which ſeveral fine Cloaths, Gold *Fetiches*, high-prized Corals, (of which I have ſeveral times ſpoken) *Conte di Terra*, and ſeveral other valuable Things are put into the Coffin to him, for his Uſe in the other Life, they not doubting but he may have Occaſion for them.

The Value and Quantity of his Coffin Furniture, is adjuſted in proportion to what the Deceaſed left

his Heir, or perhaps to the Heirs Conveniency. All this being over, and the Relations and Friends met together; after two or three Days the Corps are buried; before which a Parcel of young Soldiers go, or rather run, continually loading and diſcharging their Muſquets, till the Deceaſed is laid in the Ground: A great Multitude of Men and Women follow without the leaſt Order, ſome being ſilent, others Crying and Skrieking as loud as poſſible, whilſt others are laughing as loud; ſo that all their Grief is only in Appearance.

As ſoon as the Corps is in the Ground every one goes where they pleaſe, but moſt to the Houſe of Mourning, to drink and be merry, which laſts for ſeveral Days ſucceſſively; ſo that this part of the Mourning looks more like a Wedding than a Funeral.

They ſometimes keep a King or a very great Perſon a whole Year above Ground; and to prevent Putrifaction, they lay the Corps upon a wooden Utenſil like a Grid-Iron; which they put over a very gentle clear Fire, that by ſlow degrees dries it: Others interr their Dead privately in their own Houſes, though they give out that they preſerve the Corps in the former manner, and that in due time they will ſee the Funeral Rites ſolemnly performed. The Day being come when the King is to be publickly buried, publick Notice thereof is given, not only to the People of his own Nation, but other Countries; which occaſions ſuch a vaſt Concourſe, as is really ſurprizing, each being curious enough to come to ſee the Funeral Solemnities; and it is certainly very well worth while; ſince on this Occaſion every Body is as richly habited as poſſible, and one may ſee more Pomp and Splendour in one Day, than at other times in ſeveral Years.

In ſuch Funerals as theſe, ſeveral Slaves of the Deceaſed are killed and ſacrific'd on his account in order to ſerve him in the other World; as are alſo and eſpecially the *Boſſums*, or thoſe which he in his Life

Life had dedicated to his Falſe God, being one of his Wives, and one of his principal Servants: But what is moſt abominable, is that ſeveral poor wretched Men, who through Age or Inability are become incapable of Labour, are ſold on purpoſe to be made Victims in theſe accurſed Offerings.

'Tis a moſt deplorable Spectacle to ſee theſe miſerable Creatures killed in the moſt barbarous Manner in the World; what with Hacking, Piercing, Tormenting, *&c.* they endure a Thouſand Deaths.

'Twas not without the utmoſt Horrour that I ſaw eleven Perſons killed in this manner; amongſt which there was one, who after having endured a great deal of exquiſite Torture, was delivered to a Child of ſix Years of Age who was to cut of his Head, which it was about an Hour in doing, not being ſtrong enough to weild the Sabre.

Theſe Human Sacrifices are in uſe amongſt thoſe *Negroes* who are not fully ſubject to our Government, and live very diſtant from our Forts: But where we have any Authority we don't ſuffer it, though they will privately remove to other places in order to perpetrate this Villany.

The *Negroes* generally build a ſmall Cottage or Hut, or elſe plant a little Garden of Rice on the Grave, into which they throw ſeveral worthleſs Goods of the Deceaſed, but not Houſhold Stuff or other valuable Moveables, as Authors would have it: There is no ſuch Cuſtom at preſent: And I believe if I can judge of their Nature, never was in Uſe, unleſs in the Days of *Methuſalem*, which is a little too far for either they or me to look.

At *Axim* and other Places, they place ſeveral Earthen Images on the Graves, which are waſh'd one Year after the Funeral; when they renew the Funeral Ceremonies in as expenſive a manner as at the Interment it ſelf.

The *Negroes* are ſtrangely fond of being buried in their own Country; ſo that if any Perſon dies out of

of it, they frequently bring his Corps home to be buried, unleſs it be too far diſtant; in which caſe they bury him there; and if he have any Friends or Acquaintance there, they cut off his Head, one Arm, and one Leg, which they cleanſe, boil, and carry to his own Country, where they are interred with freſh Solemnity, as creditably as ſuits with the Circumſtances of the Defunct.

I have here ſent you what is moſt remarkable and obſervable in the Sickneſs, Death and Burial of the *Negroes*; and not being willing to overcharge this Letter with Trifles, I have for that Reaſon omitted whatever I thought leſs material. The Ship which is likely to convey this is juſt upon ſailing: Wherefore I am forced to break off ſooner than I intended, deſiring you to caſt a favourable Eye on the paſt, and expect a larger Account on another Subject from Yours, *&c.*

LETTER XIV.

Deſcribing the Tame and Wild Quadrupedes; *and firſt the Tame,* viz. *Bulls, Cows, Sheep, Goats, Horſes, Aſſes, Hogs, Dogs, Cats, Rats and Mice. After having treated of the Nature of theſe, the Author paſſes to the tame Feather'd Kind, as Hens, Ducks, Turkies and Doves: After which he comes to the Wild Beaſts. A compleat Deſcription of the Elephant, and ſome Writers on that Subject charged with Errors. Of the Buffelers Tygers, Wood-Hounds or Wild Dogs, Caymans, wild Boors; ſeveral ſorts of Harts, Hares, Porcupines, Hedge-Hogs, Sluggards, wood or wild Rats, Bouttes, Civet Cats, wild Cats, Muſk Mice, Berbe's, Squirrels, Koketoes, Leguanes, Arompo's; ſeveral ſorts of Apes, various Kinds of Lizards, Salamanders: And a large Account of the Camelion, extracted from Monſieur* de Bruyn's *Travels; with the Difference betwixt thoſe of* Africa *and thoſe of* Smirna.

SIR,

PUrſuant to my Promiſe in my laſt, to give you a Deſcription of the Animals of this Country, I intend in this to treat of the four-footed Beaſts and tame Birds; the Inſects and wild Fowl being reſerved

reſerved to another Opportunity: I am very ſorry that for want of a good Drawer I cannot ſend you the Draughts of all of them; 'tis true I had one here who drew ſeveral of them after the Life, which I ſhall ſend you; but not long ſince uncontroulable Death took him away from us, and prevented at leaſt half my Deſign: If this unhappy Accident had not prevented me I had expoſed to your view an agreeable Variety of ſtrange Animals; moſt of which are yet unknown: Wherefore, if poſſible, I would beg of you to ſend me one from *Amſterdam*, with an Aſſurance that he ſhall meet with a very good Reward here, and be better paid for one half Years Work, than he is for three Years in *Holland*: I doubt not but you can eaſily remove his prejudice againſt this Country, and aſſure him withal, that we will not detain him one Day longer upon the Coaſt, than he himſelf pleaſes to ſtay; but that as ſoon as his Work is done, he ſhall at Pleaſure retire. If you, Sir, pleaſe to take this trouble upon you, I am your Security, that you ſhall have no Cauſe to complain of us in this part of the World.

Beginning to deſcribe the Animals of this Country; the firſt which offer themſelves to our view amongſt the tame Kind are the horned Cattle, ſuch as the Bulls, Oxen, Cows, Goats, *&c. Dinkirka*, *Aſiante*, *Akim* and other In-land Countries abound with great Numbers of theſe; but by reaſon of the diſtant Situation of theſe places, only a few Bulls and Cows are brought to the Coaſt: But at *Axim*, *Pocqueſou*, *Elmina* and *Acra*, great Quantities are bred, and more eſpecially at or about *Acra*, becauſe the Opportunity is there very convenient to bring them from the Coutries of *Aquamboe* and *Lampi*.

In all other places of the Gold Coaſt we only find Bulls and Cows; for the *Negroes* are ignorant of the way of Gelding Bullocks into Oxen. At *Axim* theſe Cattle have indifferent good Paſture, and accordingly thrive and fatten very well, as alſo a-

mongſt the *Brandenburghers* at *Pocqueſou* and *Acra*: But at *Elmina* and the Circumjacent Country they are always dry and lean, and conſequently don't prove very delicate. This is the only Place by reaſon of the *Negroes* Ignorance where the Cows are Milked; but they yield ſuch a quantity of wretched Milk, that twenty or thirty are ſcarce ſufficient to ſupply the Director-General's Table.

Theſe are ſo very light and ſmall that one of the beſt Cows in her full Growth doth not weigh above two hundred and fifty Pounds, tho' by their Bulk, they might reaſonably be thought to weigh one half more: But all Animals in this Country, whether Humane or Irrational; however they may be indifferent large, yet are very light; which I am apt to think proceeds from their ſorry Food, which inſtead of a firm, produces only a ſpongy, looſe and tough Fleſh. Hence all their Beef is of an ungrateful taſte: notwithſtanding all which, about twelve Pounds Sterling is commonly given for one of theſe Beaſts.

The Calves, which might reaſonably be expected to be good, are but very indifferent by reaſon of the poor Milk the ſuck from the Cows; ſo that both Beef and Veal prove here but very ſorry Meat.

There are great numbers of Sheep, if I may ſo call them, all over the Coaſt; but yet they are very dear. Theſe ſort of Cattle are ſhaped like ours in *Europe*, from which they differ only in ſize, being not above half as big: They have no Wool, but that want is ſupplied with Hair; ſo that here the World ſeems inverted, for the Sheep are hairy, and the Men woolly; that Excrement in the *Negroes* being more like Wool than Hair.

Our Mutton here does not bear the leaſt Similitude to that of *Europe*; this being very dry, inſomuch that a nice Eater will very ſeldom eat of it, and the common People, who are not very good at diſtinguiſhing Taſtes, are obliged to forbear it becauſe

cauſe their Purſes will not reach it. Well, let them be as bad as they will, the Price is generally about ſeven or eight and twenty Shillings Sterling. If any Perſon is a great lover of Mutton he may improve to a tolerable degree, by gelding a young Ram and fattening him with fry'd Barly-Meal; after which, tho' he is not comparable to *European* Mutton, yet a curious Palate may juſt bear it.

Goats are here in innumerable abundance. They differ from thoſe in *Europe* chiefly in ſhape, being very ſmall, but much fatter and more fleſhy than the Sheep; for which reaſon ſome Men prefer them, eſpecially the He-Goats; which gelt young, in a ſhort time grow bigger and very fat: The Price of a full grown Goat is here about twelve or thirteen Shillings *Engliſh* Money.

I cannot omit a ridiculous Opinion of the *Negroes* concerning the Goats: They tells us, and alſo believe themſelves, that in the beginning of the World there was a certain Goddeſs who uſed to anoint her ſelf with *Odoriferous* Ointment and Oil; which the He-goats perceiving, applied themſelves to her, deſiring that ſhe would pleaſe to anoint them with the ſame Ointment; which ſhe ſeemed to conſent to: but indeed inſtead of the *Odoriferous*, deſignedly took a Box of ſtinking Ointment; with which ſhe anointed their Bodies; whence they ſmell ſo ſtrong to this Day. The He-Goats knowing no better than that it was the true Unguent, were very well pleaſed with it, and their breed continuing in the ſame Opinion, whenever it rains, fly always to ſhelter themſelves ſomewhere, leſt the Water ſhou'd waſh off their delicious Scent. What think you of this, Sir? Dare you affirm that Beaſts in former Days did not ſpeak after ſuch convincing Proof as this?

You muſt not expect that their Horſes ſhou'd be like *Sejanus*'s Horſe, or *Alaxander's Bucephalus*: And as their Riders have no reaſon to fear the Accident

occaſioned by the former, ſo they muſt not expect the Courage of the latter. They are ſomewhat more like the Northern Horſes in ſize, tho' nothing near ſo well ſhaped. On the Coaſt we have none; but there are great Numbers in the In-land Country; they are very ill ſhaped: Their Heads and Necks, which they always carry downwards, are very like thoſe of an Aſs; they go as if they were falling, and will not ſtir forwards, unleſs forced on by Blows; without which they would move but very ſlowly: They are ſo very low, that a tall Man ſitting upon their Backs may very near touch the Ground with his Feet. But I ſhall ſay no more of them.

There are alſo Aſſes enough here; which are ſomewhat higher than the Horſes, and in their kind handſomer. We formerly had three or four on the Shore, but they do not live long, for want of good feeding, as I ſuppoſe: I do not find that the *Negroes* uſe them to carry Burthens, but only to ride upon; for which purpoſe indeed they are as good as the Horſes here.

Nor is there any want of Hogs in the leaſt; but thoſe bred by the *Negroes*, are really worth nothing, the Fleſh is ſo flaggy and the Bacon ſo ſorry; but thoſe which we fatten our ſelves may paſs for tolerable ones, tho' they are not comparable to thoſe of *Fida*; which for the delicacy of the Taſte and firmneſs of their Bacon, are not only as good as the *European* but better: A Hog of ninety Pounds weight is here ſold for about three Pounds Sterlings; notwithſtanding there are ſo indifferent as I have told you.

To compleat our Tame *Quadrupedes*, I ſhall touch upon their Dogs, Cats and Rats, *&c.*

The *Negroes* are great Lovers of Dogs-Fleſh; hence it is that thoſe who bring a Dog here may ſell him dear enough; the *Negroes* willingly giving a Sheep for him, if any thing large; and ſome will add

add ſomething to boot, in order to put him into their Barking or Dog-School: out of which they ſell their Puppies at the deareſt rate. They prefer Dogs-Fleſh for their eating to that of Cattle, and accordingly eſteem a Meal of that the beſt Treat they can take or give.

In Proceſs of time our Dogs alter ſtrangely here, their Ears grow long and ſtiff like thoſe of Foxes; to which Colour alſo they incline: So that in three or four Years they degenerate into very ugly Creatures; and in three or four Broods their barking turns into a Howl.

The Cats are alſo eſteemed uſeful by the *Negroes*; but I never found that they eat them, unleſs forced thereto by Neceſſity, as ſome of our Slaves being under Confinement often kill and eat of them, if they can catch 'em: But we do not find that the Cats are ſubject to change like the Dogs; on the contrary they continue the ſame.

To augment the Plagues of this Country, it is peſter'd with ſuch prodigious Numbers of Rats and Mice, but eſpecially of the former, that they are not a little formidable, and do us no ſmall Injury, gnawing and ſtealing all they can come at.

Taking our leave of the *Quadrupedes*, 'tis now fit we ſay ſomething of the Tame Fowl; whoſe Species are ſo few that they will not take up much time; they conſiſting of Hens, Ducks, Turkies, and Pigeons; the two latter being in our Hands; for that the *Negroes* have not any.

The moſt common are the Cocks and Hens, and therefore deſerve the firſt place: They are in great plenty all over the Coaſt in time of Peace; for in War time, as if theſe Animals were reſolved to have no ſhare in the publick Calamity, there is ſcarce any of them to be had, and the Proverbial Advice of our *Boors*, *Take care of your Hens, the Soldiers are coming*, ſeems to be very well followed here; for as in time of Peace four of them may be bought for about

about four Shillings and Sixpence; ſo in War time, 'tis well if we can get two for that Price.

At *Axim* theſe Fowls are very fat and good, tho' ſmall; but about *Elmina* and other Places of the Coaſt, they are ſo dry and lean, and contain ſo little Fleſh, that a good Stomach would require ſomething elſe to make up a Meal, after eating three of them.

Next are the Ducks, which have been but few Years known on this Coaſt. I cannot tell from what Country they were brought; but they have no manner of Affinity with thoſe of *Europe*, nor indeed are they much like them; being one half larger, and of another Colour, commonly white, or black, white and brown mixt. The Drakes have a large red Knob on their Bills, almoſt like the Turkies, only it does not hang ſo looſe, but firmer, and is very like a Cherry; Theſe Ducks ought to be eaten young; for if they are old they are tough and inſipid.

There are no Turkies amongſt the *Negroes*, but a few kept here for the Director-General; and their Fleſh is no very great Delicacy.

We have great number of Pigeons at ſome of our Forts; all which are of the common Species of Field or wild Doves; which when young afford thoſe who love them a good ſort of Food.

Theſe are all the tame Animals which I find in this Country; our next Taſk is to conſider the Wild Beaſts.

'Tis but reaſonable that I ſhould begin with that wonderful Beaſt the Elephant; who is indowed with ſo many different, good and remarkable Qualities, that to rob him of the firſt place amongſt the Beaſts is a piece of Injuſtice. I ſhall not recite a great many Particulars concerning him; either becauſe I cannot relate them upon my own Obſervation, or that ſeveral have done it already: Beſides which ſome Authors have allowed themſelves to tell us

ſevera

ſeveral very ſtrange and ill digeſted Stories concerning its Copulation, Pregnancy, bringing forth its Young, its Age, changing its Teeth, and ſeveral other Follies; and it is not without Reaſon that I call them ſo. For as far as I can learn no Man in the World ever ſaw how they engendred, nor can tell how long they go pregnant, in what ſeparable Places they caſt their Young, or whether they change their Teeth or not. Theſe are all wild Gueſſes; of which we can get no Information by tamed Elephants: And therefore this Knowledge muſt come out of the Woods; but how they come to converſe ſo long with theſe wild Beaſts there as to obtain ſuch an accurate Account of them: I can ſcarce believe any Body, except good old *Pliny*, can pretend to it. The famous Writer concerning all ſorts of Books and Hiſtories, ſays, according to my beſt Remembrance, in one of his Books, that *Pliny* has long ſince been a fabulous Writer: But that at preſent ſeveral of his Relations have been confirmed by the Diſcoveries of judicious Travellers.

None, I believe, will deny that *Pliny* deſcribes ſome things truly; but on the other ſide, is beyond contradiction, wild, groundleſs and falſe. The forementioned famous Author, has frequently been too credulous on account of what he hath heard or read concerning Foreign Countries, as a great many Examples in his Works clearly prove; which is no ſmall Fault in an Author; for in my Opinion, at leaſt, it ſeems inconſiſtent with a good Writer, to lay down as Truth all which he can get by hearſay of other Countries; for he ought firſt to conſider whether the Relater of ſuch ſtrange Things ever had a good Opportunity of being well informed concerning them. But this carries me wide from my Subject; we ſhall let *Pliny* alone, and return to the Elephant, whom we find here in *Africa* to be a Beaſt of twelve or thirteen Foot high, and conſequently much leſs than thoſe in *Eaſt-India*, ſince the

Writers

Writers concerning that Country aſſure us, that its Heighth there amounts to more Cubits: beſides this difference, they do not differ in their Nature or Shape from thoſe in other Places.

Theſe Beaſts prove very prejudicial to the Fruit-trees, eſpecially Orange-trees, *Banano's*, and another ſort of Figs; of the laſt of which they eat both Fruit and Stem.

The *Negroes* alſo affirm, that the Elephants meeting any People in the Woods never offer any violence to them; but that if the ſhot levell'd at them miſſes, they grow very wild: But I have obſerved directly the contrary of one of them in our Garden at *Elmina* the laſt Year; of which I have enough to relate to fill a whole Letter; wherefore I beg your Patience 'till I have diſpatched this and two more; when I intend to entertain you with an entire Hiſtory of our Elephant and Tyger-Hunting; not doubting but that Account will afford you ſomething uncommon and agreeable: Wherefore ſuſpend your Curioſity ſo long, and permit me at preſent to recite what the *Negroes* and others affirm on their own Knowledge, that they follow Men into the Water, where they put them into no ſmall fright by their purſuit. At *Rio de Gabon*, four, five, and more Elephants have frequently paſſed by me and my Company without offering us any Injury, but we were not couragious enough to preſent them with a few Bullets, tho' very well ſtored; for they are very difficult to be killed, unleſs the Ball happens to light betwixt the Eyes and the Ears; to which end the Bullet ought to be Iron alſo: Their Skin is as good Proof againſt the common Muſquet Lead-Balls, as a Wall; and if they hit the mentioned Place becomes intirely flat.

The Country here where the greateſt number of Elephants are found, is chiefly that before we come at the Gold Coaſt; and is from the Multitude of their Teeth which are there traded for, properly called the Tooth, or Elephant's Tooth-Coaſt, extending to the Gold Coaſt, and takes in the Country of *Awine*, *Fummore*, *Equira*, *Abocroe*, *Ancober* and *Axim*; ſeveral Elephants being daily killed in the ſaid Places; and the wilder and

and leſs inhabited the Lands are, the larger Quantity of Elephants and wild Beaſts are found.

Ante alſo doth not want theſe Beaſts; there being not only in the In-land Country Multitudes of them ſhot, but beſides that they come daily to the Sea-ſhore, and ſo near our Forts, that they are in ſight of our People, and do a great deal of Miſchief.

In the Tract of Land betwixt *Ante* and *Acra*, there are a few, tho' not ſo many as in the former Countries, becauſe this Place hath long been reaſonably well peopled, except the Country of *Fetu*, which for five or ſix Years paſt hath lain almoſt waſte: Wherefore there is a much larger number of Elephants there at preſent than formerly.

A great part of the Country about *Acra* lying waſte and uninhabited, a great quantity are annually killed here. In the Year 1697 one of an uncommon Magnitude was killed near *Acra*, juſt by our Fortreſs, and no doubt but that he was at leaſt full-aged, his two Teeth weighing two hundred and twenty Pounds; from which you may infer that he was not very light himſelf.

In *Ardra* and *Fida* there are none, tho' in my time one was there killed, and the *Negroes* affirmed 'twas what had not happened in ſixty Years before; for which reaſon I believe he had accidentally ſtrayed from ſome other Country: For the In-land Countries of *Benin*, (which borders on *Ardra*) *Rio de Calbary*, *Camerones*, and ſeveral other adjacent Countries, are ſo incredibly overcharged with theſe Beaſts, that it is to be admired how the Inhabitants dare live there.

The vaſt Numbers of Teeth traded for in theſe Countries, clearly evince the great abundance of Elephants here; but whether all thoſe are taken from ſlaughter'd Elephants, or ſome of them are found in the Woods, or elſewhere, I cannot determine: Tho' I am apt to think that here they come by them both ways; from whence it ſhould ſeem, that (as ſome tell us) the Elephants change their Teeth; but this is utterly contradicted by the great difference betwixt the Teeth themſelves,

ſelves, ſome of them weighing one, two, or three Pounds, and others progreſſively heavy 'till they amount to above one hundred pound weight: nor is it in the leaſt probable that a ſolid Body compoſed of ſuch hard Subſtance as Elephants Teeth, can, in about twenty Years time grow from one to a hundred pound weight: how this happens to increaſe, I muſt own I am ignorant. But I have dwelled too long on this Subject; 'tis now time to take leave and turn to a Beaſt, which, tho' vaſtly different, yet in ſize reſembles the Elephant moſt of any here; I mean the Buffel or Buffeler, which is to be found all over *Guinea*, but in ſuch ſmall Numbers, that ſcarce one is ſeen in three or four Years; but ſince I ſhall have an opportunity to ſpeak of a Place where they more abound, I ſhall ſay no more of him at preſent, than that their Fleſh is very good Meat, and leave the reſt to that Opportunity.

Tygers, not very unlike the Buffelers in ſize, tho' they very much differ in Savage Fierceneſs, are here incredibly numerous, of 4 or 5 ſorts, which differ as well in their Size as Spots. Whether Leopards and Panthers are a Species of Tygers, I will not venture to determine, ſince I have not yet met with any Body who could herein ſatisfactorily inform me: Turning to *Pliny*, I found him ſo ignorantly miſtaken, that I am reſolved in my Deſcription of Animals not to name him. The *Negroes* diſtinguiſh the Tygers by ſeveral Names; but how to tranſlate them into our Language I cannot tell: wherefore paſſing over the ſeveral Species of them, I ſhall only inform you that they are all Savage, Fierce, Voracious Beaſts; by means of which daily Tragical Accidents happens.

They ſpare neither Man nor Beaſt; but as long as they can ſatisfie their Appetites with the Fleſh of Brutes, they will not make any Attempt on Mankind: but that being deficient, the firſt of Humane Species that comes in his way is certainly dead. But of this more hereafter; ſo I ſhall at preſent only, tell you that however fierce this Beaſt is, the young Ones may be brought up ſo

tame

tame that you may play with them, as with a Dog or Cat; like the laſt of which they are bearded.

I have ſeen about eight of theſe tame Tygers brought up at *Elmina*; of which the Director-General has at preſent two; but I have obſerved that in all of them their Fell Nature returns in time upon one occaſion or other; and that, tho' never ſo tame, they are not to be truſted without great Circumſpection.

Next the Tyger in fierceneſs is the Jackall or wild Dog; which is moſtly found about *Acra* and *Aquamboe*, tho' there are ſome now alſo hereabouts: This Beaſt is ſo bold, that it ſeizes and devours whatever comes in its way, whether Man or Beaſt, ſuch as Cows, Hogs, Sheep, *&c.*

At Night they come under the Walls of our Forts at *Acra* to ſeize our Hogs, or ſnatch a Sheep out of the Stall; by which means ſeveral of them are caught in the following manner. Our Garriſon lay ſeveral well-loaded Muſquets with the Lock covered with a ſmall Box; to which a Cord is faſtened with a piece of Mutton, and ſo placed, that they no ſooner attempt to ſeize it than the Muſquet goes off; and they, in the Reward of their Thievery get three or four Bullets in the Head: This Expedient ſeldom miſſes, if due care be taken in laying of the Muſquets.

The Cayman, better known by the Name of Crocodile, claims the next place in our Deſcription of rapacious Beaſts; for ſo I call the Crocodile alſo, not becauſe I have obſerved him to be ſo; not having ever heard, during the whole time of my Reſidence here, that they devoured either Man or Beaſt; but becauſe I have both read and believe ſeveral Relations of their voracious Fierceneſs.

All the Rivers in this Country are peſter'd with vaſt Shoals of them, eſpecially at *Lama* and *Boutry*; at the latter of which I have ſeen fifty on one Day; and amongſt theſe ſome that I gueſſed to be about twenty Foot long.

The Crocodile is already deſcribed by ſeveral Authors: wherefore I ſhall only add what they have forgotten or omitted. Their Bodies are covered with ſuch

a hard Skin and ſquare Scales, that 'tis impoſſible to kill them with a Muſquet-Ball; and the Caps which the *Negroes* make of it are as hard as Bone, and cannot be cut thro' with one ſtroke of a Hanger, being very like the Land-Tortoiſe-Shell. Their Bellies are ſofter; which therefore they do not frequently expoſe to danger; ſo that they can hardly be ſhot dead at any other place than their Heads. On very hot Days when the Sun ſhines very warm, great numbers of them lie basking on the Banks of the Rivers; and as ſoon a they perceive any Men near-hand, they ſteal towards the Rivers and plunge themſelves into them with great violence, immediately ſheltering themſelves under Water. Theſe Creatures do not ſeem ſwift enough to run after, and overtake Men, who are flying from them by Land, ſuppoſing them not to ſteer a crooked Courſe to avoid them; tho' it may be poſſible; I ſhould not much fear them on Land, any more than I ſhou'd truſt them in the Water; tho' indeed I never heard any Miſchief they did there.

Their Colour is dark Brown, and they may paſs for very ugly Beaſts.

And as for their Crying and other Subtelties to catch Men, I believe it as much as the *Jews* do the Goſpel.

The fierce wild Boars are reckon'd among the rapacious Beaſts; and indeed thoſe in *Europe* very deſervedly: But here on the Gold Coaſt we have very few; and theſe not near ſo wild as in *Europe*: I have ſeveral times eaten of them here, and found them very delicious and very tender Meat, the Fat being extraordinary fine.

Next theſe voracious Beaſts we come to a milder ſort of wild Beaſts; amongſt which I ſhall firſt treat of the Harts; with which Species this Country moſt plentifully abounds; they being found all along the Gold Coaſt in incredible Numbers, eſpecially at *Ante* and *Acra*, where we ſometimes ſee droves of one hundred together.

Theſe *Negroes* tell us that theſe Beaſts are ſo ſubtle, that in all marches they detach one of their Number as a Centry

a Centry to watch whether any Man be near, and advertiſe the reſt; for the Truth of which I will not be obliged, but remember to have read ſomething of that Nature of thoſe of other Countries.

There are about twenty ſeveral ſorts of theſe Beaſts here, ſome as large as ſmall Cows, others no bigger than Sheep, Cats, *&c.* moſt of them are red, with a black Liſt on the Back, ſome of them red beautifully ſtreak'd with white: All of them are very good to eat, but more eſpecially two ſorts; which we alſo eſteem very delicate: The firſt ſort are of a pale Mouſe-colour; of which I have here ſent you two Draughts, No. 1. and 2. and tho' they are both of one Species, yet they differ ſomewhat in their Shape; the Feet of one being a little higher than thoſe of the other, though the Beaſts are both of the length of about two Feet.

There is alſo a ſort not above half ſo big, of a red Colour; which are extraordinary beautiful Creatures; they have ſmall black Horns and little Legs, indifferent long in Proportion to their Bodies; but ſo very ſmall, that ſome of them are not bigger than the ſmall part of a Tobacco Pipe: one of which I have ſent you ſet in Gold for want of Drawing; and therefore hope your favourable Acceptance.

No. 3. repreſents a Hart about four foot long, of a ſlender ſhape; his Feet are very long; he hath a long Head and Ears, is of an Orange Colour ſtreak'd with white: And theſe are all the Drawings which I could get of theſe Beaſts.

Theſe Harts are ſwifter of Foot than moſt Men know; but that ſort of which you have the Foot are extraordinary ſwift, and ſtrangely agile in leaping, for ſuch ſmall Creatures: ſome that we have caught I have ſeen leap over a Wall of ten or twelve Foot high. The *Negroes* call this the King of Harts.

At *Apam*, *Acra* and *Fida*, there is a ſort of Hares not unlike ours, which plentifully abounds at theſe three places; but with reference to this I have ſufficiently detained you in my Letter deſcribing *Ardra*.

Here

Here are alſo Porcupines; but no great Number, or at leaſt very few of them are brought to us: They grow to the Heighth of two, or two feet and a half, and bite ſo ſharp, that no wooden Work can withſtand them.

I once put one of them into a Fat, not doubting but I had very well ſecured him; but in one Nights Space he eat his way through, and that at the middle where the Staves were moſt bent outwards.

This Beaſt is ſo daring, that he ventures to attempt the largeſt and moſt dangerous Snake: Of which more hereafter. When he is provoked he ſhoots his Quills (which are about two Spans long) at both Man and Beaſt, with ſuch Violence, that if they happen to hit on a Board they ſtick in it. The *Negroes* and ſome Whites higly value its Fleſh as very nice Food.

I have here alſo ſeen a ſort of Creatures not unlike our Hedge-hogs, only they cannot roll themſelves as ours are accuſtomed to do.

No. 4. Is a Draught of a Creature, by the *Negroes* called *Potto*, but known to us by the Name of Sluggard, doubtleſs from its lazy ſluggiſh Nature; a whole Day being little enough for it to advance ten Steps forward.

Some Writers affirm, that when this Creature has climbed upon a Tree, he doth not leave it until he hath not only eaten up the Fruit, but the Leaves intirely; and then deſcends fat and in very good caſe in order to get up into another Tree; but before his ſlow Pace can compaſs this, he becomes as poor and lean as 'tis poſſible to imagine: And if the Trees be high, or the way any thing diſtant, and he meets with nothing on his Journey, he inevitably dies for Hunger, betwixt one Tree and the other. Thus 'tis repreſented by others, but I will not undertake for the Truth of it; tho' the *Negroes* are apt to believe ſomething like it.

This is ſuch a horrible ugly Creature, that I don't believe any thing beſides ſo very diſagreeable is to be found on the whole Earth; the Print is a very lively Deſcription of it: Its Fore-feet are very like Hands, the Head ſtrangely diſproportionately large; that from

from whence this Print was taken was of a pale Mouſe colour: but it was then very young, and his Skin yet ſmooth; but when old, as I ſaw one at *Elmina* in the Year 1699, 'tis red and covered with a ſort of Hair as thick ſet as Flocks of Wool. I know nothing more of this Animal, than that 'tis impoſſible to look on him without Horrour, and that he hath nothing very particular but his odious Uglineſs.

There are a ſort of Beaſts which lurk in the Fields here, like Rats, but bigger than Cats; we call them wild Rats: They are continually amongſt the ſowed Corn, and do a great deal of Damage.

Their Fleſh is by ſome *Europeans* and the *Negroes* held a great Delicacy; and indeed nothing hinders its paſſing for ſuch but its diſagreeable Aſpect and ſhocking Name, which create ſome Averſion in the Eater: But thoſe who can ſtep over this, like it extraordinary well; and to remedy as much as poſſible its ugly Figure, ſome cut off the Head, Feet and Tail, before they bring it to the Table; and then it certainly paſſes on thoſe who do not know what it is, for a very grateful Diſh; for they are fat, tender and very agreeable.

There is alſo another Sort of wild Rats, which are chiefly found at *Axim*; they are as long as the former, but their Bodies are very ſlender, and they are otherwiſe called *Boutees:* Very few beſides the *Negroes* eat theſe. They do an incredible deal of Damage to the Stores of Millet and Rice, that the *Negroes* have laid up in their Houſes; and in one Night ſpoil more ſowed Corn, than 'tis poſſible for one hundred Domeſtick Rats to do; for they are not content to ſatiate themſelves, and carry off ſome with them, but they beſides ſpoil all where they come.

Here are three or four ſorts of wild Cats; of which the Civet-Cat is one; which at preſent is ſo well known in *Holland*, that I need only acquaint you that they are brought to be ſold to us very young, and then we give about eight or nine Shillings ſterling for one.

A large ſhare of Trouble and careful Attendance is requiſite

requiſite to breed them up: Their Food is Pap boiled or made of Millet, with a little Fleſh or Fiſh. They produce Civet when even very young; of which that of the Males is greater than that of the Females, becauſe the latter cannot avoid urining into the Civet Bag, which ſpoils it.

I can ſay nothing particular of the remaining wild Cats, but that they are ſpotted like Tygers, and are as fierce, doing a great deal of Miſchief amongſt the Hens where they can come at them.

I have ſeen very ſmall Mice, which afford a pleaſant and *Odoriferous* Musky Scent, but cannot find that they have any Bags like the Civet Cats; which inclines me to believe that the pleaſant Odour proceeds from the Skin.

Here are yet three or four ſorts of ſmall *Quadrupedes*; one of which you have drawn, No. 5. it being almoſt a Sort of Cat, only its Snout is much ſharper, and the Body is ſmaller and ſpotted like the Civet Cats. The *Negroes* call it *Berbe*, and the *Europeans* Wine-bibber, becauſe 'tis very greedy of Palm-Wine.

The ſecond ſort are not much bigger than a Domeſtick Rat; of a red and grey colour mixt with ſmall white Specks in their Hair; the Tail being of long Hair, ſo ſpeckled, and about three Fingers broad; ſo that it very agreeably may reach from behind to their Head: Theſe are alſo called Wine-bibbers, tho' the Name of Squirrel would fit them better.

The third ſort, when full grown, are about as big again, and red. This is a very miſchievous Creature, and bites very violently; and flies at Man and Beaſt without any diſtinction if driven thereto by Neceſſity: 'Tis called *Kokeboe*, and is a cruel Perſecutor of Cocks and Hens, though not in the ſame manner as Mr. *Focquenbrog* informs us.

They have no need of ſo much Subtilty, being ſwift enough to catch the Hens, and ſtrong enough to carry them off, when they have them. I have had ſeveral, but never found any of them with red Buttocks, though I have diligently enough examined them. What

What *Focquenbrog* says farther concerning this Animal I dare not confirm; not only because I have not found it so my self, but never yet saw the *European* or *Negro* who agreed with him.

The remaining Beast or Beasts, for there are more than one sort of them, we are here so little acquainted with, that I shall pass them over without any Description, and endeavour to give you an Account of an amphibious Animal, that lives as well in the Water as on Land: This is the *Leguaen*; it is shaped almost like a Crocodile, but seldom exceeds four Foot in Length; its Body is black speckled, with round sort of Eyes, and the Skin very tender. He injures neither Man nor Brute, the Hens only excepted; among which he sometimes makes a great Slaughter. Several *Europeans* eat their Flesh, and all unanimously agree that 'tis much finer Meat than Cocks or Hens.

N°. 8. shews you an Animal who keeps in the Woods; his Body is long and slender; to which is joined a long Tail, at the end of which is a hairy sort of Brush: He is of a pale Colour, somewhat inclining to Brown; his Hair is long and thin. The *Negroes* call him *Arompo* or Man-Eater, because his Food is dead Men; to come at which he greedily grubs out the Earth of their Graves, as if he had Notice of some Persons there hid.

The *Negroes* report that having dug to a dead Body, he does not immediately fall on it, but goes round it several times; to what end I cannot tell, but they explain it, that he thereby hints the Unlawfulness and a certain sort of Impossibility of seizing another Man's Goods, without doing something, or giving himself some Trouble on that account first.

The Mystery of this is not hard to unravel. I am apt to think that this Beast is seiz'd with a Fear natural to all Brutes; and therefore only looks round about to see if there be any Man likely to force his Prey from him.

'Tis time we say something concerning the Apes, which are here above One hundred thousand in Number, and of so many various Species, that it is really wonderful, as well as it is impossible for me to describe them all; wherefore I shall only lightly touch on some of them.

The first and most common Sort, are those we call *Smitten*, of a pale Mouse Colour, and grow to a wonderful Size. I have my self seen one of five Foot long, and not much less than a Man; they are very mischievous and bold. It seems incredible what an *English* Merchant here affirmed to me for Truth; that behind the *English* Fort at *Wimba* (where there is a terrible Number of these Apes, that are so bold, that they will attack a Man, as he related) amongst others they fell upon two of their Companies Slaves, which the Apes had overpower'd, and would have poked out their Eyes, if they had not been timely rescued by some *Negroes*; for they, to compleat their Design, had gotten some Sticks ready.

You, as well as my self, are at Liberty what Credit to give to this Story. But indeed these are a terrible pernicious sort of Brutes, which seem to be made only for Mischief.

Some of the *Negroes* believe, as undoubted Truth, that these Apes can speak; but will not, that they may not be set to work, which they do not very well love: This is their Opinion of them.

As the former sort of Apes are very ugly, so the next are exactly like them, only four of them put together, would not be so large as the other; and their best Quality is, that they are so docile, that they will learn whatever they are taught.

The third sort are very beautiful, and generally grow to the Height of about two Feet; their Hair is as black as Pitch, and above a Fingers Length: They have a long white Beard; whence they are called bearded little Men, or bearded Monkies. Of their Skins are made the *Tie-Tie's* Caps, mentioned in another

Letter of mine. The *Negroes* ſell theſe Monkies to one another for about Eighteen or Twenty Shillings; and when they bring them to us, we do not refuſe them at that Price.

There are beſides this, two or three ſorts of Monkies, each alike handſome, but one half leſs than the other, with ſhort Hair of a mixt Colour, partaking of Grey, Black, White and Red; and for the moſt part, they have a white Breaſt and Beard. But hold, inſtead of a Sheet or two of Paper, I could fill a whole Book in deſcribing the various ſorts of Apes, which I cannot think worth while, and ſo had rather diſpatch this Subject out of hand; only informing you, that of the ſmaller Apes there are not above twenty ſorts: All which are very fine; but, what is moſt unhappy, ſo extraordinary tender, that 'tis very rare that we can rear any of them, much leſs bring them to *Europe*.

I muſt yet add, that their thieviſh Nature, which ſeems to come into the World with them, is common to all of them; and I have ſeen them go very ſubtilly to work in the ſtealing of Millet and Fruit: In each Paw they take one or two Stalks of Millet, as much under their Arms (if I may ſo call them) two or three in their Mouths; and thus laden, they march away, continually leaping upon their Hind Legs; and if they are purſued, they hold that in their Mouth faſt, but throw away the reſt, that it may not hinder them in their Flight.

But their carrying ſo much *Milbio* or Millet together, is not to be compared to their nice Curioſity in ſtealing it; for every Stalk of Millet they pluck is narrowly examin'd; and if they don't like it, they throw it away, and pull another: So that this Delicacy of theirs, occaſions more Damage than their Thievery. And now I ſhall bid the Apes farewel.

Here are every where Thouſands of Lizards; eſpecially all along by the Walls of our Forts; whither they come in queſt of Food, which chiefly conſiſts in Spiders, Worms, Flies, and other ſuch like. There

are various Species of them; ſome of the largeſt having a Tail about a Foot long, and a Hand broad; of a dark Colour, and half their Head red: The reſt are about the ſame Size, and differ only in Colour.

They are almoſt all of them ugly, and that to a ſhocking Degree, except thoſe that follow, which may paſs for ſomewhat more tolerable.

Theſe are chiefly a ſort about half as big as the other, and are Green; next to which is another ſort one half leſs than the laſt; they are of a Grey Colour, and creep all up and down our Chambers, cleanſing them from all ſmall Vermin: Theſe we call Salamanders.

That the Lizards forewarn Men againſt Snakes, and other venemous Creatures, I believe to be as true as that the Salamanders continue alive in the Fire; unleſs one would affirm that this Report is owing to the Antipathy betwixt the Salamander and the Fire, that being much of the coldeſt Nature of all the Lizards; and this Opinion I could eaſily ſubſcribe to, at leaſt for ſo long till ſuch are found, which, according to the Ancients, live in the Fire.

To conclude this Letter, I ſhall add two ſmall Animals; which former Times have preſented us with large but very wild Accounts of: The Draughts of which we have, N°. 6, and 7.

The peculiar Natural Colour of the one is Green ſpeckled with Grey; and the other Green, and Fire-colour and Grey mix'd together. Theſe Animals are very rare, and deſerve a more particular Deſcription.

Several have already undertaken it, but amongſt them all I like none better than Father *N. N.* and Monſieur *Cornelius de Bruyn* in his Travels in *Aſia*. What he hath told us, I muſt entirely confirm, without being able to add any thing; theſe here being exactly of the ſame Nature with thoſe he deſcribes: Wherefore not being able to preſent you with a better Deſcription, I ſhall give it you in his own Words, ſomewhat abridg'd.

Whilſt

Whilſt I (ſaith he) with great Satisfaction, not much incumber'd with the preſſing Neceſſities of Life, paſſed my Time at *Smyrna*, I had an Opportunity of getting ſome Camelions into my Hands; and being curious to diſcover how long they would live, I commonly kept four of them in a large Caſe, and ſometimes let them run looſe in my Chamber, and frequently brought them into the great Hall of the Houſe where the Wind breezed through from the Sea-ſide, when they ſeemed briſker than before, and opened their Mouths to imbibe the freſh Air.

'Tis firmly aſſerted by Naturaliſts, that theſe Creatures live on Air: And indeed Experience confirms it in ſome meaſure; for I never ſaw mine eat or drink any thing, except a few Flies; of which hereafter.

'Tis alſo true, that they frequently change their Colour; I have my ſelf ſeen their Colour alter three or four times in half an Hour, without any Colour being thereabouts; which I ſoon drew both in Miniature and Oil-Colours.

The Colour which they chiefly change to, is a very fine Green, ſpotted with Yellow, as beautiful as any Pencil can expreſs it; ſometimes alſo it is ſpotted with brown Spots: And thus is the whole Body adorn'd, Tail and all. Sometimes they change to a brown Colour, like that of Moles.

Their ordinary Colour is Grey, or rather pale Mouſe-colour; the Skin very thin, and almoſt tranſparent: They moſtly change to a Lizard-Colour. But as to their changing to the Colour of all Things which are placed near them, Experience has inform'd me that the Naturaliſts are here in the wrong, for they do not change to Red, nor ſeveral other Colours; tho' I muſt own, that I have obſerv'd ſudden Changes in them on that account.

I never could keep them alive above five Months, and moſt of them die in four. I was very curious to know what their Inteſtines conſiſted of: Wherefore I opened one, in which I found ſome Eggs

about as big as thoſe of ſmall Birds, being all joined together as if in a Thread, but no Guts or any thing elſe. The Tongue was the moſt remarkable of all, being as long as the whole Animal. With this they catch Flies, as they tell us; which is done in the following manner: The Camelion holds himſelf very ſtill, and when a Fly comes in his way, he darts out his Tongue with utmoſt Swiftneſs, graſps them with the ſharp Point of it, and draws them in; to which purpoſe his large wide Mouth, which he opens, is very convenient.

If this Beaſt is deſirous to deſcend from any Height lower, he very carefully advances firſt one Foot, and then the other; which are afterwards followed with the ſame Caution by the Hind Feet, his Tail curling about one thing or other in the mean while, by which he can hold faſt; which continues as long as he finds any Aſſiſtance by it, and then falls flat to the Ground. Their March is very ſlow, and their Size as expreſſed in the Print.

Some would have it that the Camelion moſtly keeps his Mouth open; but I have very ſeldom obſerv'd it, and ſcarce ever, when I did not carry them to a Place where they could have the Pleaſure of imbibing the Air; then indeed they ſtretched their Mouths wide open, and diſcover'd, by their Motion and frequent changing their Colour, the Pleaſure they were ſenſible of. Their Eyes are round, very black, and obſervably ſmall; but what is moſt remarkable, is, that they can direct one of them to one ſide, and the other to another; ſo that at once they can look upwards and downward.

Thus far Monſieur *de Bruyn*; to which I ſhall only add the Difference which I have obſerv'd betwixt thoſe of *Smyrna* and this Country; which chiefly is, firſt, that they here live as many Years as Monſieur *de Bruyn* ſays Months; but then we put them in a Garden upon one of the Trees, upon which they continue ſtirring ſome time before they deſcend: They have alſo ſeveral times been ſent to *Europe*, and got over alive.

The

The ſecond Difference is, that I have not obſerved any of theſe here with their Mouths open, and conſequently have not ſeen the Tongue or Fly-catching; which yet does not diſengage me from believing Monſieur *de Bruyn*: But, on the contrary, I take it for undoubted Truth what he ſays on that Head; for his Deſcription being ſo exact, 'tis probable enough that he obſerv'd it.

In all other Particulars they entirely agree; ſo that I neither can or will ſay any more of them, than that Monſieur *de Bruyn* might better have compar'd their Eggs to thoſe of Lizards, than of ſmall Birds; for I have obſerv'd that in all *Quadrupedes* and creeping Animals which do not bring forth their Young, but lay Eggs, for Inſtance, Lizards, Camelions, Leguanes, Snakes, and Tortoiſes; that their Eggs are not cover'd with any hard Shell, but rather with a thick Fleſh, which is pliable and weak. What do you think, Sir, Is not this Letter fairly lengthen'd? I think it is: Wherefore 'tis high time to end the ſame, having at preſent nothing more than that I am with all my Heart, Yours, *&c.*

LETTER XV.

Treating firſt of the Feathered Kind, viz. of two Species of Pheaſants: Partridges, Wild Ducks of two ſorts; Turtle Doves, crooked Bills, Snipes, and other Edible, tho' unknown Birds: Of Crown Birds, beautiful green Birds, blue and white Herons, * Portugueze *Eagles, Kites; a certain River-Bird, very fine; Crown-Birds on the Gold Coaſt;* Pokkoe, *a large Fowl ſo called by the* Negroes, *and valued for his Uglineſs; as alſo another about the ſame Size, but handſomer. Of four Species of Granivorous Birds; a ſmall beautiful River-Bird, Parochites, Parrots,* † *Star-Birds. Of Frogs and Toads, ſome of which are very large: of the great Numbers and various Sorts of Snakes, ſome of which have two Heads. Of Scorpions; a ſort of* Scolopendria, *or many-feeted Worms, and ſeveral other Species of Inſects.*

* Birds ſo called by the *Hollanders.* † In *Dutch Stier*, or *Stervogel.*

Of Bees, Multitudes of Ants, and their ſtrange Nature. Of the ſeveral ſorts of Fiſh, as Braſilian *Cod, Jacks, Plaiſe, Flounders; a Fiſh called* Siſie Pampher *by the* Negroes; *C——coverer, and ſeveral other large Fiſh; ſeveral ſorts of Bream, Stompneuſes, or flat Noſes,* Boardmanerjes, *or Pouts, Mackrel, Saffer, Aboei, Ray, Soles, Dabs, Lobſters, Crabs, Prawns, Shrimps, Sprats, Karmon, Mullets and* Batavia: *Alſo three voracious Fiſhes, viz. Noordkapers, Sword fiſhes, and Hays or Requiens.*

SIR,

IN my laſt having at large deſcribed the Wild *Quadrupedes*, and Tame Fowl; it remains that I ſhould treat of Birds, Reptiles, Inſects and Fiſh.

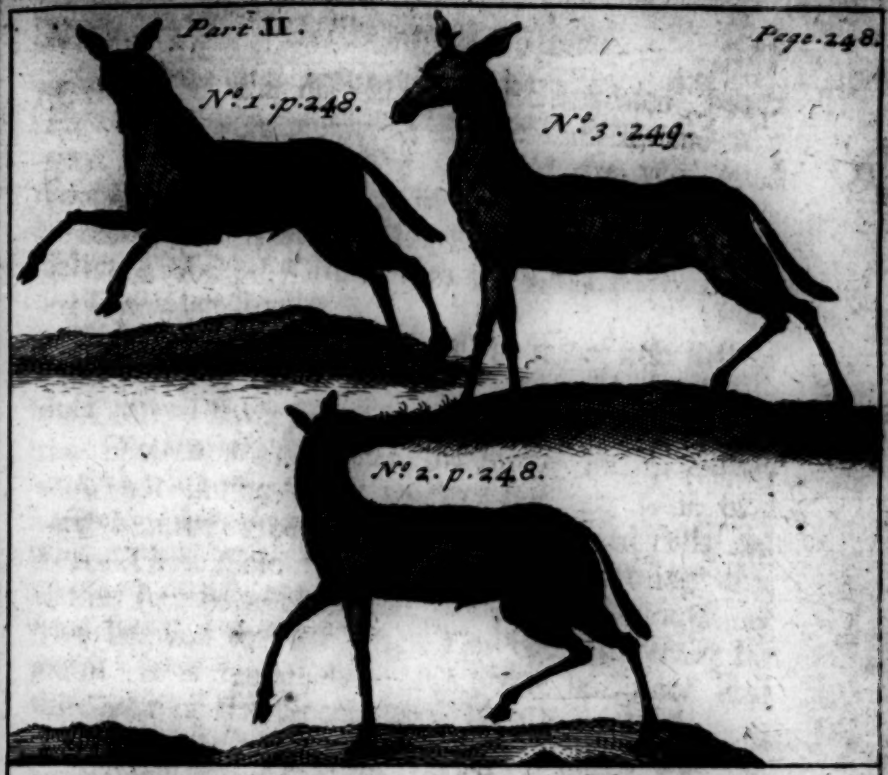
To begin our Account of Birds with thoſe which are edible; I ſhall beſtow the firſt place on the Pheaſant, expreſſed in the Print, N°. 9. Of which vaſt Numbers are found about *Acra*, in the Province of *Aquamboe*, in and about *Apam*, in the *Acraſe* Country; being extraordinary beautiful, and about the Size of a Hen; their Feathers ſpeckled with a bright Blue and White, encircled with a Sky-colour'd Ring about their Necks, about two Fingers broad, and adorn'd with a very fine black Tuft on their Heads: In a word, it is as beautiful a Bird as Nature furniſheth among the Terreſtrial Species, and next to Gold (which I always eſteem the moſt precious) is the moſt charming Rarity which *Guinea* produces.

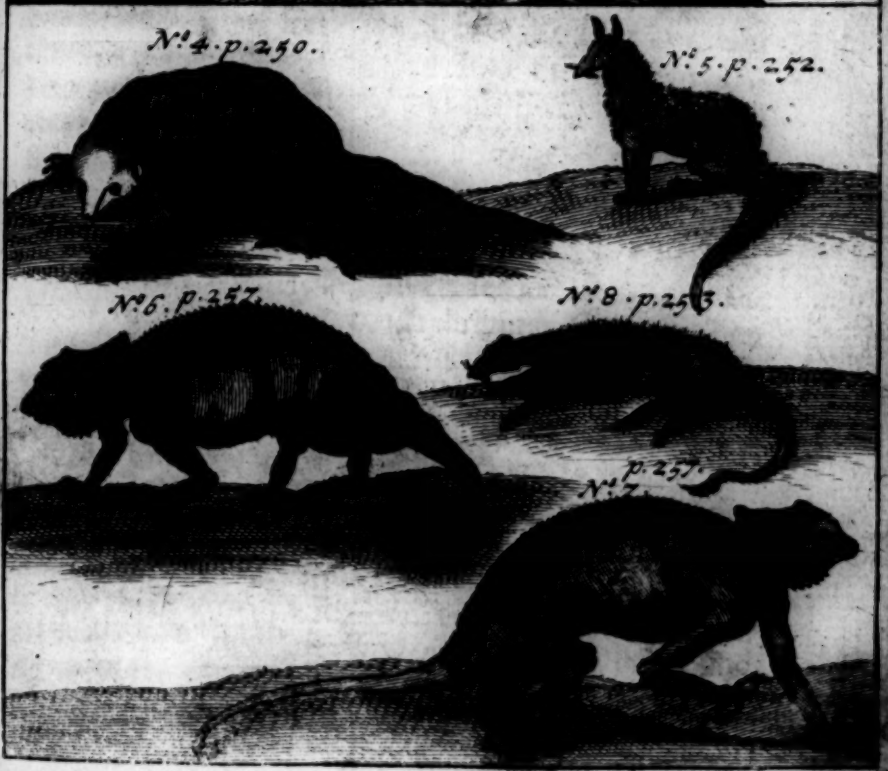
N°. 10. preſents you with the drawing of a Bird, which we here call the *Fidaſe Pheaſant*, becauſe they are moſt frequently obſerv'd in that Country, tho' they are beſides ſometimes caught on the *Gold Coaſt*.

This Bird is almoſt as big as the former, tho' not near ſo beautiful. His Body is Gray and White, a little ſpeckled with Blue; his Head is bald, and cover'd with a hard callous Skin, which is all over knotty; his Bill is Yellow, from whence to the Head grows out on each ſide a red Jollop.

To the Pheaſants it will be proper to add the Partridges, of which there is a vaſt Quantity all over the Gold Coaſt, tho' we have no great Numbers of them

to


N°. 1. p. 248.
N°. 3. 249.
N°. 2. p. 248.


N°. 4. p. 250.
N°. 5. p. 252.
N°. 6. p. 257.
N°. 8. p. 253.
N°. 7. p. 257.



to eat, by reaſon of the want of Sportſmen; but at *Fida* they are as plenty as can be deſired, and at a very low Price; and when in Seaſon, are very good Food.

Nor do we want wild Ducks, which are here very delicate, and only differ from thoſe in *Europe*, by being ſomewhat ſmaller.

There are here two ſorts of them; of the firſt of which, during the whole Time of my Reſidence on the Coaſt, I have ſeen but two, which were ſhot by the Director's Trumpeter: In Shape and Size they were not unlike other Ducks; but they were of a very beautiful green Colour, with fine red Bills and Feet: Their Colour was ſo deep and charming, that if they had been alive and to be ſold, I ſhould not have boggled to have given Ten Pounds *Sterling* for them. It is remarkable, that before nor ſince that time none of that Species have been ſeen.

And for about four Months paſt, I have ſeen but one of the ſecond ſort; which was alſo ſhot by one of the Gariſon, and was ſhaped like the former: His Feet and Bill were yellow, and his Body adorn'd with an equal Mixture of Green and Grey; but not near ſo fine as the former.

There are here two, or rather three Species of Turtle Doves; the firſt are ſmall, of a bay Colour, and eat very well, being much tenderer than the ſecond; which are of a much brighter Colour: The third ſort being as tough and large as theſe, are of a very beautiful Green; their Bills and Feet are yellow; they have a few red Feathers, and their Eyes are encircled with large white ſpeckled Rings, ſome of which are intermix'd with Blue.

There is a very large Rock above our Fort at *Axim*, two or three Musket-ſhot from the Ramparts; which is very thick grown with Under-woods, where Thouſands of theſe two laſt ſorts of Turtles harbour, and by reaſon the Rock is ſo cloſely covered with thoſe Plants, we can catch but very few; for if we ſhoot them

them, and they fall down, they are never found. Every Evening they come there to Rooſt, and in the Morning take their Flight in queſt of Food.

Crooked-bills, and ſeveral ſorts of Snipes, are very common here; ſeveral of them prove good Food, but moſt are ſo tough, that they are not very much valued.

We have here alſo Multitudes of all ſorts of large and ſmall Birds, which are ſhot and eaten; but beſides that we are unacquainted with them, they are not diſtinguiſh'd by any particular Names.

As for thoſe which are not edible, but are only kept for Beauty and Rarity (ſuppoſing them to be caught,) The moſt common you have in the Print, No. 11. Of which there are ſeveral at *Fida*, and in the whole Country of *Ardra*, and alſo a few at and about *Acra*.

Their Legs and Body are about the Size of a Stork, and they are called Crown-Birds, from the great yellowiſh Tuft or Crown intermix'd with ſpeckled Feathers, ſtrutting like Hog's Briſtles, with which their Heads are adorn'd: Their Bodies are chiefly covered with black Feathers, and their Wings furniſhed with large red, yellow, white and black Quills; their Heads are beautify'd with Purple Spots, half a Thumb's breadth on each ſide, and the fore-part of their Head is very cloſely cover'd with a perfect black downy ſort of Feathers; which, at a Diſtance, ſeems to be black Velvet.

Theſe Birds ſeem to be in great Eſteem in *Europe*, ſince we are inceſſantly ſollicited by ſome Gentlemen to ſend them over; and I have been told, that they preſumed to preſent one of them to the King of *England*, who was alſo pleaſed to accept of it. But for my part, I cannot perceive ſuch extraordinary Beauty in them; for, beſides their Head and Neck, there is nothing very rare; the reſt of their Body being rather diſagreeable than fine.

But the Bird of which I have ſent you the Draught, No. 12. on the contrary is not leſs beautiful than rare; for

for tho' moſt of the other Birds are to be found all over the Coaſt, I never ſaw this any where but at *Apam*, where, I am apt to think, there are great Numbers of them; becauſe ſending out two Days ſucceſſively in a ſhort time, I had one brought me ſhotten dead; for otherwiſe they are not eaſily taken.

They are very like a Parrot, having exactly ſuch a Bill, which is dark yellow; the Breaſt and whole under Part of their Body is of a very fine green Colour; the upper Part Grey, Red, Sky-colour and deep Blue, very agreeably intermix'd: The Head, Neck and Tail, which are all Green, render this Bird very charming, the Feathers riſe on his Head like a Comb; he hath large Eyes, above and below which are two the moſt beautiful red Rays that can be imagined. To conclude, this Bird is not to be parallel'd for Beauty.

Here are two ſorts of Herons obſervable, the Blue and the White; both which we might have placed amongſt the edible Fowl, ſince ſeveral here eat them.

In theſe Parts is alſo an unknown Bird, as big in the Body as a Gooſe, moſtly white, which we call *Portugueze*; which is alſo eaten by ſome few.

Nor are Eagles wanting here, ſuch as are in *Europe*, or at leaſt not very different from them.

Here is alſo another ravenous Bird on the Coaſt, very like a Falcon; and tho' but a little bigger than a Dove, yet he is ſo bold and ſtrong, that he attacks and flies away with the largeſt Chickens.

The third ſort of Birds of Prey on this Coaſt, are the Kites; theſe ſteal all they can diſcover and carry off, beſides Chickens, whether Fleſh or Fiſh; and that ſo boldly, that they frequently ſeize the latter in the Hands of the *Negro* Women as they are going along the Street, or ſitting in the Market.

N°. 13. repreſents a Fowl which harbours near Lakes and Rivers; and may very well paſs for a fine Bird: He is about as large as a Chicken, the upper Part of his Body Black or Brown, ſpeckled with

White, and the under either deep Yellow, or Red; he hath alſo a Tuft of ſpeckled Feathers riſing like a Comb; and his Bill, in Proportion to his Body, is extraordinary thick and long.

In the next Leaf, I have preſented you with a *Fedaſe* Crown-Bird; and wiſh I could alſo ſend you a Draught of the ſort found on the *Gold Coaſt*, and then you would obſerve a great Difference; it being twice as fine, and of ten various Colours, as Green, Red, Blue, Sky-colour, Brown, Black, White, *&c.* and what is very obſervable, they have a long Tail; out of which the *Negroes* pull the Feathers to wear on their Heads. We call them Crown-Birds, becauſe ſome have a beautiful Blue, and others a Gold-colour'd Crown or Tuft on their Heads. Monſieur *Focquenbrog* mentions Peacocks that he ſaw at the River *Boutry*, which can be no other than theſe Birds; for here are no Peacocks on the Coaſt.

N°. 14. delineates a Bird, which, tho' ugly enough, may be eſteemed rare; for I dare aver, that the whole World doth not produce the like: Nor can he, I am certain, be more naturally or lively expreſſed than in this Print; and yet the Pencil ſeems to have flatter'd him, for he there looks handſomer than he really is.

He is exactly of the Size of a Gooſe; his Wings are extravagantly long and broad, covered with dark-colour'd Feathers; the under Part of his Body is overſpread with Aſh-colour'd Feathers, if I may ſo call them; for it is really difficult to diſtinguiſh them from Hair. Under his Neck he hath a Crop or Maw about a Span long, and as thick as a Man's Arm, which looks like a red Skin: In this he hoards his Food, as the Monkies do in their Alfoaches. His Neck, which is pretty long, and the red Nob in the Nape, is furniſhed with Feathers as well as the under Part of the Body; his Head, in proportion to his Body, is much too large; and, excepting a very few Hairs he hath, is very bald: His Eyes are large and black, his Bill extraordinary thick and long. His

Food

Food is Fiſh; of which he devours as much at once as would ſuffice four Men: He catches the Fiſh thrown to him very nimbly, and throws them down whole into his Crop. He is a great Lover of Rats, which he alſo ſwallows whole, and which we have often obliged him to vomit; for as he runs on the Out-works of the Caſtle, to divert our ſelves, we cauſe him to be brought above; when, as tho' he deſign'd us a Service, he brings up a half-digeſted Rat out of his Crop, and lays it at our Feet.

It is agreeable enough to ſee a little Boy, or our Dogs ſet on him; upon which he will very ſtrangely arm himſelf for Oppoſition, pecking and ſtriking them with his Bill very artfully, and they repulſing him, which was like two Pieces of Wood ſtruck againſt each other, or a Pair of Snappers.

Theſe being all his good as well as bad Qualities, I leave you to judge whether he is handſome or ugly, tho' I cannot doubt but you will declare him the latter: The *Negroes* call him *Pokkoe*.

N°. 15, is a Bird in Size ſomewhat like the former, tho' his Neck is much longer. When he ſtands on his Feet, and ſtretches his Neck upwards, he is much above a Man's Height. Our People ſhot him by the River of *Apam*, and we found his Feathers Black, White, Red, Sky, and ſeveral other Colours, intermix'd all over his Body; his Eyes are large and yellow. This is all that I have obſerved of him; he may very well paſs for a fine Bird: His Name is equally unknown to me and the *Negroes*.

N°. 16. is a granivorous Bird, ſhaped as the Print repreſents him; his Bill being long and ſharp, his Body checquer'd with yellow and light blue Feathers; a black Semicircle about his Neck, a long Tail compoſed of yellow, blue and black Feathers, and a few Feathers on his Head.

N°. 17. repreſents a Bird ſhaped like the former, and of the ſame Species; from which he chiefly differs in that his Bill is thick, ſhort and black; the under

Under-Part of his Body black, his Back of a beautiful Yellow, and his Feet as well as Bill black.

N°. 18. is alſo a Bird, not very different from the firſt in any thing elſe, except that Grey and Yellow are intermix'd amongſt his Feathers; he hath a ſharp Bill, and in Proportion to his Size, extraordinary long Feet and Claws.

N°. 19. is a Bird not above half ſo big as the Precedent, and ſhaped almoſt like a Sparrow; his Colour renders him very beautiful, his Head and Breaſt being as black as Jett, his Wings and Feet Grey, the reſt of his Body of a bright Red; and it is indeed pity we cannot keep theſe Birds alive.

But N°. 20. far exceeds all the other in Beauty. He always harbours about the Rivers, fattening himſelf with ſmall Fiſh. His Wings and the upper Part of his Body are entirely Blue, ſomewhat inclining to Sky-colour; as are alſo the Feathers of his Neck, which are pretty long, and the Tuft on his Head; his Breaſt is of a dark Yellow, mixed with ſome blue and red Feathers; his Feet and Bill of a bright Red, and very thick and long.

This Bird was drawn by the Painter during his Sickneſs, and very unwillingly; which is the Reaſon that he hath not expreſſed the Variety of his Colours, otherwiſe he would have appeared one of the moſt beautiful ſmall Birds, which not only *Guinea* produces, but ſeveral other Countries afford.

N°. 21. expreſſes another granivorous Bird, ſhaped as the Print deſcribes; his Breaſt, the under Part of his Body and Neck, is of a reddiſh Yellow; his Head is entirely black, except a beautiful yellow Spot on the fore Part; the upper Part of his Body and Wings are Black, and his Tail is compoſed of black, yellow and red Feathers intermix'd.

N°. 22. is about as big again as the former, hath a beautiful and red Breaſt, and under Part of his Body; the upper Part of his Body, Wings and Tail, as black

as

as Pitch, and the upper Part of his Head of a bright Yellow, and ſhaped as the Figure expreſſes him.

N°. 23, and 24. expreſs two ſmall Parrochites, or *Guinea* Spartows; not that here are none like thoſe in *Europe*: But on the contrary, we have here vaſt Numbers of the ſame Species, without the leaſt Difference; but theſe are alſo called Sparrows, for what Reaſon I cannot tell.

The whole Coaſt, but more eſpecially the lower Part of it, as *Moure*, *Cormantyn*, *Apam* and *Acra*, very plentifully abounds with theſe Birds: They are of a green Colour, mixed with a beautiful Red, and ſome of them have alſo a few yellow and black Feathers. Their Bill, like that of Parrots, is red and crooked.

They are very beautiful little Creatures, and daily, or whenever Opportunity offers, we ſend great Numbers of them to *Holland*, where they bear a good Value. We generally buy them here at the Rate of a Rixdollar *per* Dozen: But moſt of them commonly die in their Paſſage to *Holland*; notwithſtanding which, a certain Author hath adventured to tell us, that they live Thirty, Forty, or more Years; but that muſt be *once on a Time*: For at preſent, of one hundred that we ſend over, ſcarce ten ſurvive.

N°. 25. repreſents a Parrot, tho' I might have ſpared that unneceſſary Pains, becauſe you daily ſee them in *Holland*; but he is ſuch a faithful Animal, that I could not deny him a Place here.

We have them all over the Coaſt, but not many, and moſt of them come from far Inland Countries. Thoſe of *Benin*, *Calbary*, and *Cape Lopez*, are here moſt valued, becauſe far-fetch'd; tho' their Admirers are not aware that they are much older than thoſe we catch here, and conſequently not ſo docile; but theſe Men, like Ladies, admire what comes from afar.

All the Parrots here on the Coaſt, as alſo on the Promontory of *Guinea*, and the mentioned Places, are Blue.

It would be to waſh an *Æthiopian*, or at leaſt an unneceſſary Taſk, to ſay much concerning theſe Birds, ſince they are ſo common in *Holland*, that they are there much leſs eſteem'd than here, and bear a leſs Price alſo; for I believe very few in *Holland* wou'd give three, four, or five Pounds *Sterling* for a babbling Parrot, which is very frequently done here.

Theſe, Sir, are all the Birds which I can preſent you the Draughts of; but you muſt not thence infer, that there is no greater Variety of Species: On the contrary, I dare aver, that theſe do not amount to a fifth Part of what I have ſeen, to paſs by thoſe which never occurred to me.

Thoſe which for want of a Painter I could not ſend, are in their kind all extraordinary beautiful: Wherefore I am not a little concern'd that I cannot get them drawn.

But I muſt have Patience till I hear what Anſwer you pleaſe to ſend to my Requeſt: Wherefore, to conclude this Diſcourſe of Birds, I ſhall yet add one; of which I remember to have read Wonders. His Feathers are repreſented like Stars; his Voice as loud as that of a Bull; and we are told, that when the *Negroes* are travelling, if they hear him on the Left Hand, they quit their intended Journey, and return home: How far this Relation agrees with Truth, I leave you to judge.

This Bird is about twice as big as a Sparrow; his Feathers are not in the leaſt like Stars, tho' indeed he hath a few ſmall Specks, which they will ſo conſtrue; but if that be allowed, there are a great many Star-Birds in the World.

His Voice or Lowing is hollow and piercing; but to compare him to that of a Bull, is to aſſert, that a Bell of One hundred Pound will give as great a Sound as that of Ten thouſand Weight.

As to what concerns the third Part of the Account of him, I have not much to offer againſt it; for as the World, with reſpect to Human Life, is liable to a perpetual Change; and what at preſent is one Thing,

may in One hundred Years be alter'd to another: So I can eaſily believe, that the *Negroes* were formerly ſuperſtitious enough to put a Stop to their Travels, and return home upon hearing this Bird on the Left Hand, ſince at preſent they don't take it for a good Omen; but now they never break off their Journey on that account, unleſs it be ſome extraordinary Bigots, with which all Parts are ſtored: But from them no rational Character can be drawn.

Having ſaid enough of this Bird, and the whole Feathered Kind; I ſhall in the next Place ſay ſomething of Reptiles, and whatever approximates to that ſort of Animals: Of which I can only impart two Draughts, which ſhall follow in their Place; but firſt of the Toads.

Toads and Frogs are as numerous here as in *Europe*, the laſt being alſo of the ſame Size; but the firſt are not only in as great Abundance, and ſhaped like ours, but they are in ſome Places of a terrible Largeneſs.

At *Adja*, an *Engliſh* Village betwixt *Moure* and *Cormantyn*, I have ſeen ſome as broad as a common Table-Plate. When I firſt ſaw them, I took them for Land-Tortoiſes, of which we have alſo ſome here; but was ſoon convinced of my Error by their leaping. The *Engliſh* Factor told me, that a vaſt Number of them harboured about that Place. They differ from other Toads only in Largeneſs, which renders them very hideous.

The Toads here, as well as in other Places, are mortal Enemies to the Snakes, and we have been Eye-witneſſes of ſeveral Engagements betwixt them.

Here are great Quantities and Variety of Snakes, ſome whereof are hideous great: The largeſt of thoſe taken in my Time here, was twenty Foot long, tho' In-land I believe there are yet much bigger; and we have frequently found in their Entrails not only Harts and other Beaſts, but Men alſo.

Moſt of them are venomous, but the following are ſo to an extraordinary Degree, and therefore very dan-

gerous: Theſe are ſcarce a Yard long, about two Spans thick, and variegated with White, Black and Yellow.

I was once in the utmoſt Danger of my Life by one of theſe Serpents; for as I ſat at *Axim* by a Rock, which was overgrown with Trees and Under-woods, one of theſe poiſonous Animals was got very near me; when, by a great Chance, I was aware of him juſt time enough to eſcape the evident Danger.

The Snakes infeſt not only the Woods, but the Dwellings of the *Negroes*, and even our Forts and Bed-Chambers, where I have often kill'd them.

Several Perſons beſides my ſelf have ſeen a dead Snake with two Heads; whether both were ſerviceable to the Body, as ſome affirm, ſince the Snake, as I told you, was dead, I could not determine; nor could I obtain any ſatisfactory Account from the *Negroes*.

Of all the various Species of Snakes, I have cauſed only one to be drawn; but as ſoon as another Painter comes hither, I ſhall have Opportunity to preſent you with more: For beſides that we can cauſe them to be taken every Day, we have alſo a Reſerve of ſome of their Skins ſtuff'd and kept, one of which is fourteen Foot long, and within two Foot of his Tail hath two Claws; which helped him to erect himſelf, and contributed to his more expeditious March: His Head is like that of a Pike, and ſtock'd with much ſuch another Row of Teeth.

The Snake which the Print N°. 26 expreſſes, is above five Foot long; as thick as a Man's Arm, variegated with black, brown, yellow and white Streaks, very agreeably mix'd.

The moſt curious Part of this Reptile is his Head, which is very broad and flat: He injures neither Man nor Beaſt, any otherwiſe than by a very ſmall Horn, or rather Tooth, which irregularly from the upper Jaw ſtrikes thro' his Noſe, and is white, hard, and ſharp as an Awl; and the *Negroes* going bare-foot, very often inſenſibly tread on them, by reaſon that when

when theſe Creatures meet with any Repaſt, they ſo ſatiate themſelves, that they fall into ſuch a ſound Sleep, that it is no ſmall Noiſe that can awaken them: Wherefore they are very eaſily taken or killed.

Next to this Serpent, N°. 27, is a large Scorpion; of which I need not ſay any thing, ſince he is incomparably well drawn as big as the Life; tho' I have ſeen them here as big as ſmall Lobſters, being alſo furniſh'd with ſuch Claws and Feet, and their whole Bodies covered over with long Hair.

Very few are ignorant how pernicious this Animal is to Mankind. Some of them have a ſmall Bladder full of Poiſon, of half a Finger's Breadth at the end of their Tails, which they ſpurt out when they ſtrike either Man or Beaſt; and this is unavoidably fatal.

This here repreſented had a Bladder as big as a white Pea, full of Poiſon.

The Scorpions, in my Opinion, ought to be reckon'd amongſt the Number of Inſects, as well as the *Millipedes*, or *Hoglice*, which are called *Centepees* by the *Portugueze*, and are here found to be prodigiouſly numerous; and tho' their Sting is not ſo dangerous as that of the Scorpions, yet it is certain it occaſions a very ſharp Pain for three or four Hours; after which it ceaſes, without leaving the leaſt Relick of Uneaſineſs.

No Place in our Forts is free from theſe Vermin, the longeſt of which are about a Span; they are flat and red, interſpected like other Worms, having two ſmall Horns, or rather Claws, with which they ſtrike. The Feet are on each ſide of the Body, and are 30 or 40: Their exact Number I cannot inform you of.

If I ſhould treat of all our Inſects, and deſcribe each Species of them; ſuch as the Bees, Crickets, Caterpillars, Graſhoppers, and above twenty ſorts of Worms, Ants and Beetles, I ſhould fill two Quire of Paper; in order to which I ſhould want nothing but a perfect Knowledge of that Subject.

I wiſh Mr. *Lecuwenhoec*, that great Naturaliſt, had Opportunity to do it; for I believe he would meet with more Rarities here than in all other Parts of the World. I have ſent you herewith, as a Specimen, a Box-full, containing above a Hundred of the moſt rare Species of them; be pleaſed to reſt contented with them, and a Deſcription of a couple of Inſects, which I have not there ſent; and firſt of the Bees.

The Excellence of the *Guinea* Honey is very well known to many; here are prodigious Quantities of that as well as Wax, about *Rio de Gabon*, *Cape Lopez*, and farther in the Gulph of *Guinea*; both which we have alſo on the Coaſt, tho' not in ſuch Plenty.

Conſidering the ſtrange Nature of the Ants, thoſe Enemies to Man and Beaſt, I cannot avoid treating of them at large.

Theſe Vermin make Neſts about twice the Height of a Man, of the Earth, which they turn up in Fields and Hills; beſides which, they build large Neſts in high Trees: From which Places they ſometimes come to our Forts and Chambers in ſuch prodigious Swarms, that they frequently oblige us to quit our Beds in the Night-time; they are ſtrangely rapacious, and no Animal can ſtand before them: They have often in the Night attack'd one of my live Sheep, and that I have found a perfect Skeleton in the Morning; and that ſo nicely done, that the beſt Maſter of the diſmembring Art could not ſucceed ſo well, it being impoſſible for Human Hands to have done it ſo artificially.

It is one of their Diverſions to ſerve Chickens and other Fowl in this manner; nay, as ſwift as the Rats are, they cannot eſcape them; and 'tis pleaſant to obſerve, that as ſoon as one of them aſſaults a Rat, he is inevitably gone; for attempting to run away, he is attack'd by ſeveral others, till ſo many fall upon him, that they overpower him; and they are ſure not to leave him till they grow to a Body ſtrong enough to remove him to a ſafe Place.

Really

Really if one conſiders the Practice of thoſe Vermin, it would prompt one to conjecture that they had a ſort of Language concurrent amongſt themſelves; for I have ſeveral times placed a Worm or Beetle where only one or two of theſe Ants were, who immediately departed, and returned in a Minute, bringing with them above a Hundred; and if they were not enough, in a Moment more were called: After which, they ſeize their Prey, and march off with it in good Order, all mutually aſſiſting each other in the Carriage of the Burthen.

Theſe Piſmires are of various ſorts, great and ſmall, White, Black and Red; the Sting of the laſt inflames to a great Degree, and is more painful than that of the *Millipedes*: The White are tranſparent as Glaſs, and bite ſo forcibly, that in the Space of one Night alone they can eat their way through a thick wooden Cheſt of Goods, and make it as full of Holes as if it had been ſhot through with Hail-ſhot.

That the Ants have a King, which is as large as a Crey-fiſh, as Monſieur *Focquenbrog* is pleaſed to tell us, is what I don't know, and conſequently dare not aver.

Having thus, in my Opinion, particularly enough treated of the Animals which fly in the Air, as well as thoſe on the Earth; it remains only to finiſh this Letter in running through thoſe who inhabit the Sea and Rivers.

The want of Fleſh, and other neceſſary Proviſion in this Country, renders the Sea conſiderable, as the principal Support of Human Life, without which it were impoſſible to ſubſiſt here; for not only the *Negroes*, but moſt of the *Europeans*, live only on Fiſh, Bread and Palm-Oil. So that it is a very great Happineſs, and particular Providence of God, that the Sea and Rivers here ſeem earneſtly to conteſt which ſhall produce the beſt Fiſh.

Both afford very good and delicious Fiſh, the principal of which I ſhall here exemplify. Firſt, the Sea

here produces a Fiſh as large as our common Cod, which is here called *Braſilian* Cod, being extraordinary fat and delicate; after which follow,

The Jacks or Pikes, great and ſmall, which, in their Seaſon, are very fat and good, and not ſo hairy as in *Holland*.

Here are alſo Plaice and Flounders; and tho' the firſt but ſeldom appears, yet the ſecond are extraordinary plenty, tho' neither ſo thick nor ſo good as ours in *Holland*; from which they alſo viſibly differ in Shape.

There is another ſort of ſmall flat Fiſh here, which in Delicacy ſurpaſſes all the reſt on the Coaſt: Theſe Fiſh are here called *Piſie-pampers*.

Which are alſo followed by another as flat, but rounder, diſtinguiſhed by the obſcene Name of C—— *coverer*. Here are Half-Koords, Corcoado's, Giltheads, and other large Fiſh, as black and white Carabins, which are cheap and good Food for the meaner ſort of People.

Here are Bream in very great Plenty, of three or four ſorts; two of which eſpecially are very fat and delicate, which are commonly called *Jacob Evertxen* and *Roojeud*.

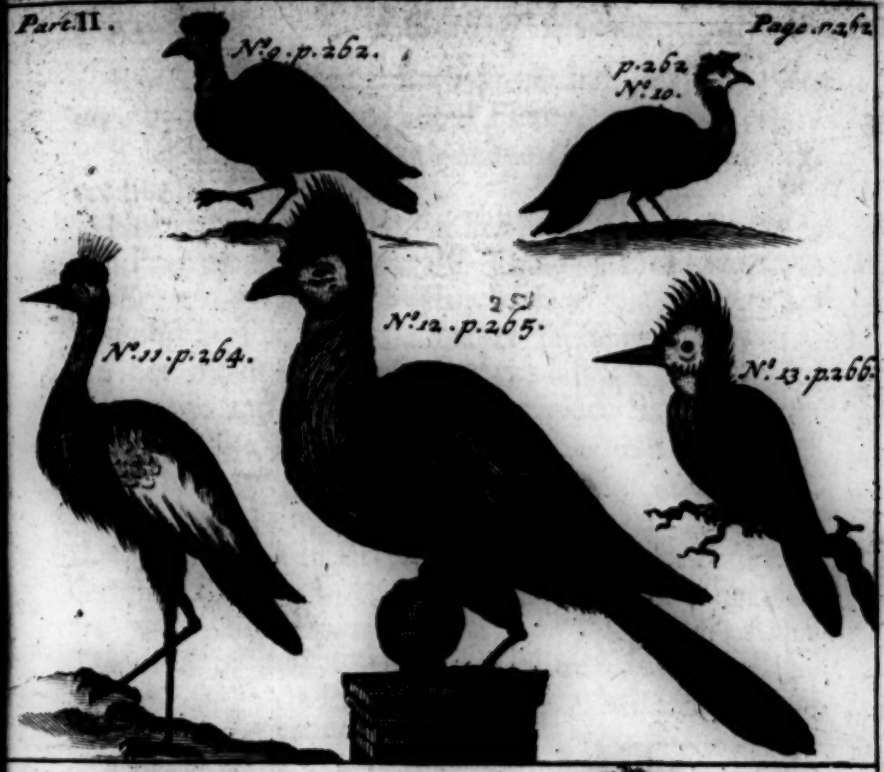
Amongſt the middle-ſiz'd Fiſh, are firſt Flat-Noſes, ſo called from their very flat Snouts; they taſte like our Haddock.

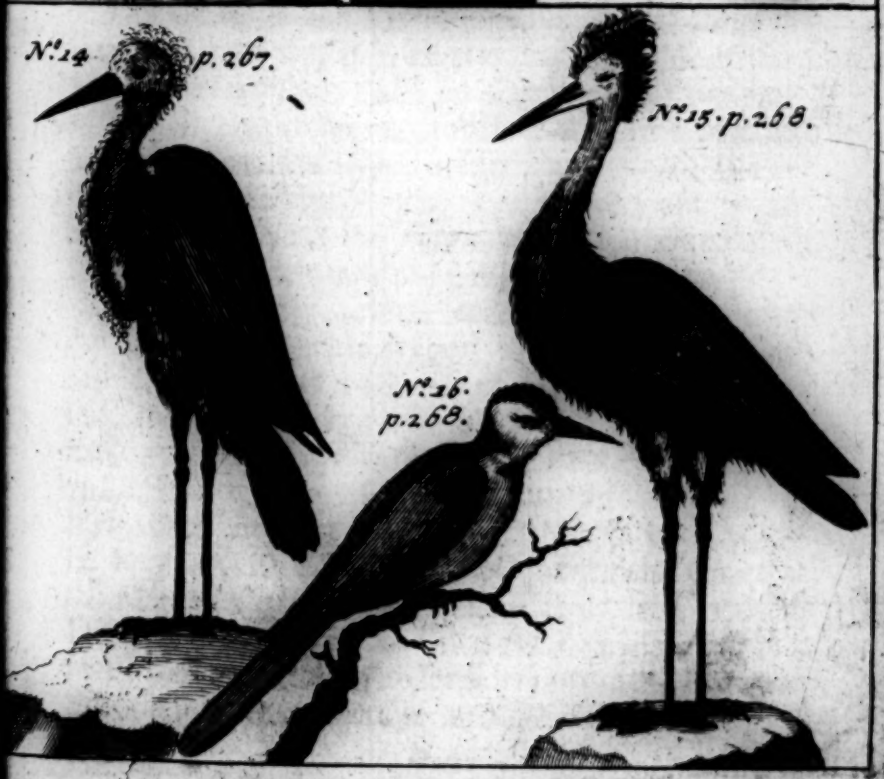
The ſecond Sort, which are much leſs, are a ſort of Pouts, called by the *Dutch Baardmannetjes*, from their Hairs like a Beard hanging at their Chops.

We have ſometimes Mackrel, tho' but very few caught; but vaſt Shoals are taken of the *Saffer*, or King's-fiſh, as the *Dutch* call it; which, in their Seaſon, are extraordinary fat and good, taſting like Eels: Gutted and dried, they are eaten inſtead of Salmon.

Amongſt the ſmall Fiſh, the firſt which occurs is, the *Aboei*, ſomewhat like our Trouts, but much firmer, and more delicate; they are taken here by Thouſands.

Ray


N°. 9. p. 262.
p. 262
N°. 10.
N°. 11. p. 264.
N°. 12. p. 265.
N°. 13. p. 266.


N°. 14 p. 267.
N°. 15. p. 268.
N°. 16.
p. 268.



Ray or Thornback, both great and ſmall, is here very good, and in prodigious Plenty.

Soles and Dabs are here extraordinary; the firſt exceeding ours in *Holland*.

Nor is here any want of Lobſters, Crabs, Shrimps and Prawns. We have alſo Thouſands of two ſorts of Sprats, great and ſmall; both which are very fat when in Seaſon, tho' the former ſo ſtringy, that they are not much eſteemed; but the laſt are very agreeable Food, and very good either pickled like Herrings, or dried like Red-Herrings; both which Ways we yearly preſerve great Quantities.

The River-Fiſh, beſides thoſe which come out of the Sea and ſtay in Rivers, are of three Sorts. Firſt, *Carmon*, a white Fiſh, the largeſt of which Species are about three Quarters of a Yard long, and of the Thickneſs of a Man's Arm; they are ſo far from being too lean, that they would be very delicious, if not too fat and oily.

The ſecond is the Mullet, which differs from the former only in that it is leſs, and hath not ſo thick a Head; but is full as good Food as the other.

The Rivers produce a third ſort of Fiſh here called *Batavia*, the laſt of which are indifferent good, if they don't taſte muddy, which they are very apt to do: Some of us have, (tho' very erroneouſly) taken them for Pearch, which they are not in the leaſt like.

I could ſpecify ſeveral other Fiſh, but I content my ſelf with touching upon the principal Species; and aſſuring you that a Lover of Fiſh, as I reckon my ſelf, may here meet with full Satisfaction: He may make a ſatiating Fiſh-Meal at Five or Six Pence Charge; and a Soldier, or thoſe who cannot afford to run ſo high, may eat their Fill at half that Price. I would be here underſtood to ſpeak of the general Courſe of the Market, for ſometimes there is at leaſt one half Difference as well in the Price as Goodneſs; and it is really very melancholy to ſee how the miſerable meaner Sort ſubſiſt when there is no Fiſh, which commonly

happens in the ill Weather, or Winter, as it is here called; for at other Times one ſort of Fiſh or another being in Seaſon, there never is any want.

However, I ſhall yet add a Deſcription of three Species more, that are found on this Coaſt; which, by reaſon of their Rarity, I cannot omit.

The firſt and largeſt are called here and elſewhere by the *Dutch*, Noordkapers; I ſhall ſpeak more particularly of theſe in another Place, and at this Time only hint, that on the Coaſt in fine Weather, when the Fiſhermen are in the beſt of their Caption, theſe Fiſh come towards the Shoar; and, as the *Negroes* aſſure us, ſo frighten all the Fiſh, that they immediately take their Flight, and even the next Day not a Fiſh is to be ſeen in the Sea; ſo that they doubtleſs purſue them very cloſe.

The ſecond are the Sword-Fiſh, ſo called by reaſon of the flat Bone about a Yard or an Ell long, and a Hands-breadth, which they have at the End of their Snout: This Bone is furniſhed with about ſeventeen, nineteen, or more ſharp Teeth, about a Finger's-length on each ſide, and moſtly rugged, and one more on one ſide than the other: He is ſeven, eight, nine, and ſometimes ten Foot long, tho' he is alſo extraordinary thick. How theſe Fiſh wage War againſt Whales, and other large Fiſh, I cannot inform you; for I ſhall not ſay any thing tending that way, becauſe I never ſaw any ſuch thing, nor have been at the Place where any of theſe Skirmiſhes have happen'd; and out of an Apprehenſion that I ſhould never return, I am not very ſollicitous to viſit them, eſteeming it much better to ſtay at home.

The third ſort are *Hayes* or *Requiens*, by ſome, (tho' utterly wrong) named Sea-Dogs; for they are not in the leaſt like them: They are very thick as well as very long, ſome of them betwixt twenty and thirty Foot; their Head is broad, flat, and their Snout very ſharp-pointed; as to the reſt, they are very ugly. This Fiſh is the *Negroes* beſt and moſt common Food:

They

They are daily taken on the *Gold Coaſt* in great Shoals. The *Europeans* never eat them, by reaſon of the toughneſs of their Fleſh; to remedy which, the *Negroes* lay them a rotting and ſtinking ſeven or eight Days; after which they are greedily eaten as a Delicacy, and a great Trade is driven in this Commodity to the Inland Country.

The *Haye* doth not ſpawn like other Fiſhes, nor lay Eggs (as the Tortoiſes do) but caſts its Young in the manner of *Quadrupedes*.

Theſe Fiſh do no manner of Damage on the whole *Gold Coaſt*; but at *Fida* and *Ardra*, where the Slave-Trade is managed, they are extraordinary ravenous; and in my Opinion, fiercer than the moſt voracious Animal in the World.

If any Perſon fall over-board, he is infallibly dead, unleſs (which very ſeldom happens) none of theſe Fiſh are near, or he is immediately helped up.

When dead Slaves are thrown over-board, I have ſometimes, not without Horror, ſeen the diſmal Rapaciouſneſs of theſe Animals; four or five of them together ſhoot to the Bottom under the Ship to tear the dead Corps to pieces; at each Bite an Arm, a Leg, or the Head is ſnapt off; and before you can tell Twenty, they have ſometimes divided the Body amongſt them ſo nicely, that not the leaſt Particle is left; nay, not ſo much as any of the Entrails; and if any one of them happen to come too late for his Share, he is ready to eat up the others, and they attack one another with the greateſt Violence in the World; and mounting their Heads and half their Bodies above the Surface of the Water, they give one another ſuch forcible Blows, that they make the Sea around to tremble.

When the *Haye* ſeizes his Prey, he is obliged to turn himſelf on his Back, becauſe his Mouth is placed far behind and low; wherefore he cannot come at any thing upwards.

When we ſometimes take one of theſe Fiſh, and hawl him on Board with a Rope, we are always obliged

obliged to keep at a Diſtance; for, beſides his ſharp Teeth, he ſtrikes with his Tail, which is prodigious ſtrong; and whoever comes near him, either loſes an Arm or a Leg, or at leaſt hath it broke to pieces.

I take the Reaſon why they don't fall on Mankind on the *Gold Coaſt* to be, that they can here eaſily ſatiate themſelves with ſmaller Fiſh, which is wanting at *Ardra* and *Fida*: Wherefore, rather than ſtarve, they devour Human Bodies; which, I am apt to think, reliſh very well, ſince, when our Ships depart from thoſe Places, they ſometimes follow them for three Weeks or a Month, waiting for more Slaves to be thrown over-board.

Notwithſtanding the rapacious Cruelty of theſe Fiſh, yet ſome Perſons told me, as a certain Truth, that at *Cape Vert*, where they are ravenous enough, it happened that one of our Maſters, either by Misfortune or Neceſſity (I forgot which) was over-board, and not being able to ſwim very well, was in danger of drowning, but that a *Haye* in the very lucky Minute, ſoftly caught him by the Leg, and carried him on Board one of our Ships. If this be true, it is a greater Miracle than *Arion*'s engaging the Dolphin by his melodious Harp to waft him ſafe to Shore, ſince the *Haye* ſaved the Man without any Inducement; but to believe this to be true, requires a ſtrong Faith; notwithſtanding that to engage me to it, the very Man, the particular Day and Place are named: But two Reaſons ſtrongly oppoſe the Truth of this Story; firſt, the innate Cruelty of this Fiſh; ſecondly, that whilſt on his Belly he cannot take any hold; ſo that he muſt have lain on his Back e're he could have ſeized this Maſter; after which, he muſt have ſwam in that Poſture. But you'll ſay, perhaps, that in his Youth he had learned to ſwim on his Back (as our Boys commonly do) in order to practiſe it upon occaſion. What ſhall I ſay, my Friend? Nature is very ſtupendious in her Operations. Let us leave this Story there;

and

and as to the reſt, be aſſured that I paſſionately deſire always to remain, Sir, Yours, *&c.*

LETTER XVI.

Treating of Trees and other Plants; as firſt of the Palm-Trees, and other Properties: Of four ſorts of Palm-Wine. Of Coco-Trees, wild Coco's or Palmeto's. Orange and Lemon-Trees; their Numbers and Virtues, and where abound moſt. A copious Deſcription of the Papay-Tree, and its Fruit; alſo of the Tree called Piſang, diſtinguiſhed into Bakovens or Paquovens and Banana's. What ſort of Fruit the Cormantyn *Apples are, and why ſo called. Of Pomgranates and Vinous Grapes: Of ſeveral ſorts of wild Trees; ſome of which are very high and large; amongſt others the Capot-Trees, why ſo called, Where Wood fit for fine Works is produced. Of the Fruits of the Earth; and firſt of the Corn, or the greater or leſſer ſort of Milhio or Millet, Rice, Jambes and Potatoes. Of all ſorts of Beans. A large Deſcription of Anana's; concerning which ſome Authors are contradicted. Of Water Melons, a very fine Fruit. Of Malagueta, otherwiſe called the Grains of Paradiſe, or* Guinea *Pepper.* Piemont, Tarragon *and ſtinking Tobacco: Of which the* Negroes *are great Lovers. Of the manner of boiling their Salt.*

SIR,

THIS ſhall only diſcharge the Promiſe of the former, to ſay ſomething concerning the Trees here and their Fruit, as well as the Corn and Plants of this Country: In which, to avoid all Circumlocution, as the *Coco* in the *Eaſt Indies* by way of Excellence is numbred amongſt the firſt Trees; ſo with equal Juſtice the Palm claims the Preheminence here; ſince with the help of Bread and Fiſh, it ſubſiſts moſt of the People on the Coaſt.

The firſt Produce of this Tree is its Nut; which roaſted when young, taſte very deliciouſly, and when old, are covered with a red Huſk or Shell, black on the hinder-part, and contain the Palm-Oil, which is obtained by Contuſion and Expreſſion as that of Olives.

This

This Oil is naturally Red, but if kept ſome Years, turns White: It is a little nauſeous firſt to New-Comers here, but for him that is uſed to it, is no deſpiceable Sauce; beſides that, it is very ſtrengthning and healthful; and I am inclined to prefer it in ſeveral Diſhes before Oil of Olive.

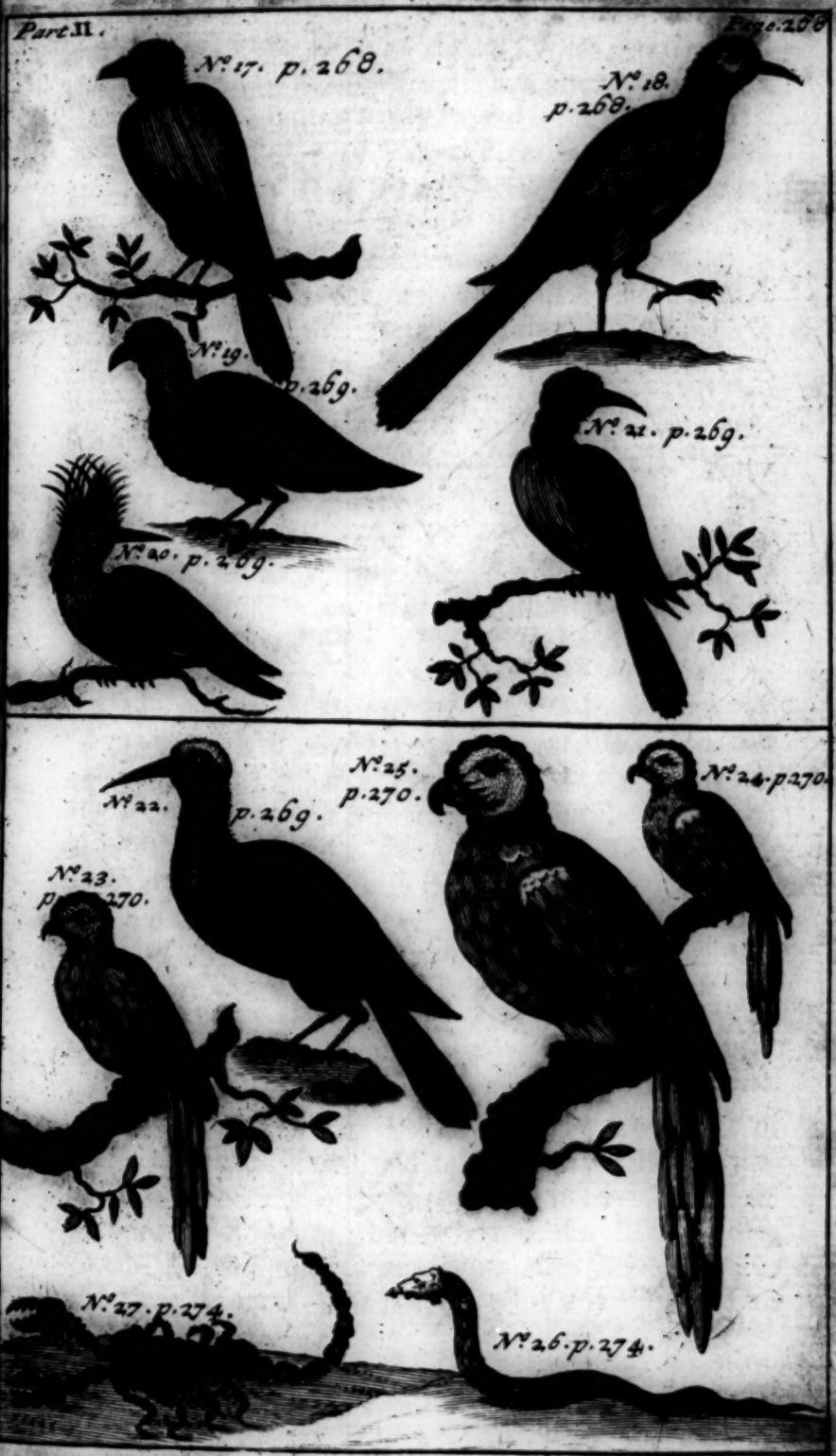
After the Oil is expreſſed, the Pulp ſerves the *Negroes* for a Delicacy; and if kept till old, is extraordinary good to fatten Hogs, and render their Fleſh very firm.

The ſecond Fruit it yields is the Wine it ſelf: To obtain and draw off which, when the Trees are old enough to be cut, they are bereft of all their Branches, and rendred entirely bare; in which Condition having remained a few Days, a little Hole is bored in the thickeſt Part of the Trunk; into which is inſerted a ſmall Reeden Pipe; and thro' that the Palm-Wine drops into a Pot ſet under to receive it; but it diſtils ſo ſlowly, that in twenty four Hours ſcarce a Pottle of Wine iſſues from one Tree: In this manner, proportionable to the Goodneſs of the Ground in which the Tree is planted, it yields Wine for twenty, thirty, or ſometimes more Days; and when it hath almoſt run its laſt, they kindle a Fire at Bottom, in order to draw more Wine with the greater Force.

This Wine being drank freſh, or under the Trees, as our Phraſe runs here, is very delicious and agreeable; but withal ſo ſtrong, that it unexpectedly ſteals to the Head, and very ſpeedily intoxicates: But that which the *Peaſants* bring daily to the Shore, is not worth much, becauſe it is impoveriſh'd and adulterated; and I believe it is not ſo much coveted by the meaner Sort and the *Negroes* for its agreeable Taſte, as its inebriating Quality; with which it is plentifully endowed, tho' very much vitiated by a pretty large Mixture of Water.

The Tree thus drained of its Wine, is fit for nothing but firing; but when green, its Leaves are uſed to make Ropes, Nets, and other neceſſary Things.

There


N°. 17. p. 268.
N°. 18. p. 268.
N°. 19.
N°. 20. p. 269.
N°. 21. p. 269.
N°. 22. p. 269.
N°. 23. p. 270.
N°. 25. p. 270.
N°. 24. p. 270.
N°. 27. p. 274.
N°. 26. p. 274.

BSB

There are four ſorts of this Tree, each of which hath a particular Name: We have already ſpoke of the right and genuine Palm-Wine.

The ſecond ſort of Palm-Wine is drawn in no Country beſides that of *Fantyn*, and is called *Quaker*; for what Reaſon I have already informed you in another Letter. This ſort exceeds the other ſomewhat in Pleaſantneſs of Flavour, and very much in Strength; half ſo much of this as of the other being a Doſe ſcarce to be carried off; and the Trees from whence it is drawn are not above half as big as the right Palm-Trees.

The third ſort is drawn at *Ancober*, *Abokroe*, *Axim* and *Ante*, tho' but in very ſmall Quantities at the laſt; and goes by the Name of *Pardon:* So that you may eaſily believe no Villany here can be committed ſo great, but that *Pardon* is eaſily attainable, if the Perſon be in the good Graces of the God *Bacchus*.

This Wine, tho' of a very different, hath yet as pleaſant a Taſte as the former, but not ſo ſtrong.

Theſe Trees are not cut, but the Wine is drawn out of them whilſt growing, as the *Suri* is drawn out of the Coco-Tree in the *Eaſt-Indies*; with this Difference, that after the Wine is there drawn off, the Trees remain alive; whereas they here wither and dye: The Reaſon of which I believe, that in *India* they don't draw off all the Wine at once, but leave a Remainder for Nouriſhment, to encourage the Growth of the Tree; whereas here they force out the leaſt Drop, whence the Tree, utterly depriv'd of all its Moiſture, muſt needs entirely wither and die.

The fourth kind is produc'd in the Countries of *Ante*, *Fobi* and *Adom*; and is of a very different Flavour from all the other three, and utterly void of all manner of Strength; but when drank freſh, taſtes like Milk; and nine or ten Hours after it is drawn, is not fit to be drank, nor is it good for any thing. This is called *Criſſia*.

The *Negroes* report, that drinking much of this Wine cauſes the virile Member to grow to a large Size; which is indeed credible, by reaſon that the *Negroes* are in no Place on the Coaſt ſo ſubject to this Diſtemper as in the mentioned Countries. The Wine is drawn from theſe Trees, as already you have been informed the *Pardon* is, that is, whilſt growing.

The Trunk of the Palm-Tree is in Circumference about an ordinary Man's Height, and about as tall as he alſo. That called *Quaker* is not above half ſo big. Both ſhoot their Branches upwards, ſome of which are in Length twenty Foot or above. Theſe Branches, call'd here and elſewhere *Bamboes*, are uſed for covering of Houſes, for Hedges, and on ſeveral Occaſions. On each ſide of theſe Bamboes grows ſmall long Slips, which are their Leaves.

The *Pardon*-Trees grow like the Coco-Nuts, tho' on a much thinner Stalk. The *Criſſia*-Trees grow alſo in the ſame manner, tho' they very remarkably differ in Height and Thickneſs of the Trunk, this not exceeding the fourth Part of the Height of the *Pardon*-Tree; and out of every Plant of this ſort ſhoot generally four, five, or more Stalks; from all which Wine is drawn.

The perfect mature Age of a Palm-Tree is ten, twelve, or more Years; and then but ten, fifteen, or at moſt twenty Gallons of Wine are drawn off; notwithſtanding which, this Wine daily comes in ſuch prodigious Plenty to the Shore, that it is really to be wonder'd at; and from hence we may naturally infer, that there muſt be many Thouſands of theſe Trees growing in this Country, or the Wine will ſoon be at an end. An Anchor of five Gallons is commonly ſold for about Two Shillings and Three-pence *Engliſh* Money, tho' at ſome Times and Places it is one half cheaper than at other.

Next the Palm, the Coco-Tree ought indiſputably to take place. How beneficial theſe Trees are to Mankind,

kind, is known to many, and may be ſeen in ſeveral Deſcriptions of *Eaſt-India* Voyages. But here, through the Ignorance of the *Negroes*, no other Advantage reſults from them than the Fruit, I mean the Nut; the Kernel of which, as well as the encloſed Milk, is very pleaſant to the Taſte.

Theſe Trees ſhoot up in this Country to the Height of thirty or forty, and ſometimes fifty Feet: Their Branches, and (ſo called) Leaves, are like thoſe of the Palm, excepting that the Coco-branches are not ſo long, or fit for the Uſes the others are employed in: Theſe Trees bear their Fruit in the fourth or fifth Year, and live fifty Years and longer.

The wild Coco-Trees, otherwiſe called Palm-Trees, grow alſo here, and bear a Fruit, which but very few of the *Europeans* eat, tho' the *Negroes* do. This Tree is very much thicker than the genuine Coco, eſpecially in the middle, where he is of a ſurprizing Greatneſs; and what adds to the oddneſs of the Figure, is, that the top and bottom are one half ſmaller. At the top grows a Fruit, which ſeems to be the Pith of the Tree, and is called Palm-Cabbage, becauſe it hath a ſort of Cabbagy Taſte.

In the Country of *Axim* are vaſt Quantities of ſweet as well as ſowre Oranges: The ſweet are pretty good, but the Garden of *Elmina*, which is extraordinary full of them, hath ſome, which for agreeable Taſte, fall very little ſhort of thoſe of *China*.

In the other Countries there are very few or no Orange-Trees, notwithſtanding Monſieur *Focquenbrog* hath been pleaſed to aver, that they grow in great Multitudes along the River *Boutry*; in which he is abſolutely miſtaken, for I have ſeveral times ſailed along that River, and never found any, nor according to the Report of the *Negroes* were there ever any: There are a few indeed on the Hill near our Forts, but not one on the mentioned River-ſide.

Lemon-Trees, which are here called Bramba's, grow all over the Coaſt, eſpecially at *Moure*, where they

are preſſed; and which Place, if the Seaſon be not unuſually dry, is able annually to deliver above two hundred Aums of Lime-Juice. About twenty, or twenty five Shillings *Engliſh* Money, is the Price of an Aum of Lime-Juice, or pickled ſmall Lemons.

The *Guinea* Lime-Juice and pickled Lemons are too well known and eſteemed in *Holland* to require me to inſiſt any longer on that Head.

Some Authors have ſaid a great deal concerning the Papay-Tree, but without due Examination; We are told that they have neither Branches nor Leaves, and that it does not grow above Man's Height, *&c.* But to refute theſe, and ſome other Opinions that are cheriſhed, I need only deſcribe the true and natural Shape of this Tree.

His Trunk, being ſeveral Foot thick, is compoſed of a ſpongy Wood, or rather Root, which it moſt reſembles: It is hollow, and may very eaſily be cut through the middle with a Hatchet. The Fruit at firſt grows at the top of the Trunk, without any Branches; but as the Tree grows older, it ſhoots out Branches alſo towards the top, which reſemble young Stocks; on which the Fruit alſo grows. At the very top of the Trunk, and of the mentioned Branches, ſhoot other ſmall Sprigs almoſt like Reeds, a little crooked and hollow; and at the Extremity of theſe Sprigs, grow very fine broad Leaves, frequently cleft, not very unlike Vine-Leaves, excepting the Size only.

Some Papay-Trees run up to the Height of thirty Foot, which is conſiderably more than a Man's Height. The Fruit, or what is properly called the Papay, is about half as big as the Coco-Nut, of an oval Shape, Green without, and White within; but with Age they turn very Red within, and abound with numerous white Kernels, which are the Seed from whence they are produced. The Papays taſte rather worſe than better than Pompions.

There grow Multitudes of Papay-Trees all along the Coaſt; and theſe are of two ſorts, *viz.* the Male and

and Female, or at leaſt they are here ſo called, on account that thoſe named Males, bear no Fruit, but are continually full of Bloſſoms, conſiſting of a long white Flower; the Female alſo bears the ſame Bloſſom, tho' not ſo long, nor ſo numerous.

Some have obſerved, that the Females yield their Fruit in greateſt Abundance when the Males grow near them: You may, Sir, believe what you pleaſe; but if you don't, I ſhall not charge you with Hereſy.

So much hath already been written concerning the Piſan-Tree, which is divided into *Bakovens* and *Banantes* or *Bananas*, that it ſeems hardly worth while to detain you on that Head any longer, than to confirm what others have ſaid, as that its Fruit, eſpecially the *Bakovens*, are very good; that they bear in a Year, tho' but once in all, for then the Stock is cut off, and from the Root there ſhoots out five or ſix freſh Stocks; ſo that this Plant may paſs for a perpetual Almanack, as being indeed endleſs.

The Stock of theſe Trees, if they deſerve that Name, grow to once and a half or twice Man's Height. Thoſe who are of Opinion that the Leaves of this Tree were the Leaves with which our Firſt Parents cover'd their Nakedneſs, are not ſo much out of the way, partly becauſe theſe Leaves are long and broad enough for that End, and partly by reaſon they are called Fig-Leaves, and theſe Trees bear the Name of *Indian* Figs; tho' I muſt own beſides, that they are very unfit for Cloathing or Covering, for a Touch of the Finger makes a hole in them; wherefore they would hardly ſerve a live Body.

Here are alſo ſeveral other fruitful Trees, but their Fruit is not only unknown to us, but eaten by very few: Wherefore I ſhall ſay very little concerning them. And firſt, we have here a ſort of Fruit like our two ſorts of Plums, Blue and White, in Shape as well as Colour; but they are not very well-taſted, as being very ſweet, mealy and dry.

But I ought not to forget the *Cormantyn* Apple (ſo called, becauſe it moſt plentifully abounds in that Country) which is as big as a Walnut, with its green Huſk on; its Rind is Yellow, ſomewhat inclining to Red: In the Core are four large, flat, black Kernels, which are ſurrounded by the Pulp, or the Fruit it ſelf; which is Red and White, and of a ſort of ſharp, ſweet Taſte, but moſt inclining to acid. It is a very agreeable refreſhing Fruit, and very comfortable for the Sick, eſpecially thoſe afflicted with the Bloody-Flux, for it is very aſtringent, and boiled with Wine and Sugar, is not only more uſeful, but more agreeable than Tamarinds.

I have alſo ſeen a few Pomgranates in the Gardens of *Elmina* and *Moure*; but before they come to Maturity, they rot or fall off; ſo that they ſcarce come to any thing.

I muſt not paſs over the *Moureſe* Vine: *Moureſe*, I call it, becauſe, except that at *Moure*, there is not one on the Coaſt. This produces Grapes twice a Year, commonly in *Auguſt* and *January*; and would, doubtleſs, yield a vaſt Quantity, if pruned in a proper Manner and Seaſon by a ſkilful Hand; but being entruſted to an ignorant *Negro*, not half the Grapes come to Perfection, but wither or rot before they are half ripe: And it is farther to be feared that the Vine it ſelf, by this miſerable Lopping, will run to utter Ruin.

It yields a blue Grape, which is ſubſtantial, and very well-taſted, and not ſo juicy as ours in *Holland*: But, I doubt not, if carefully look'd after, but that they would be as good, if not better than the beſt in *Europe*, ſince they are already better than the *Dutch* ones.

It is obſervable that Vines will not grow any where here but at *Moure*; Trials being made at *Elmina*, and other Places, but without any Succeſs.

To the beſt of my Remembrance, this Vine was firſt planted by the *Portugueſe*, who brought it firſt from *Braſil* ſome Years paſt; and the Fruit thereof is

so very agreeable to the *European* Inhabitants, that it is to be wished more could be planted and raised at other Places; for at present no Body is the better for it, except the Factor at *Mouri*, the Director-General, and the Gentlemen at his Table; and scarce one of one hundred that comes here, can obtain the Favour of seeing it.

These are all the Fruit-Trees of *Guinea*, I mean that Part called the *Gold Coast*: I shall then next advance to the Description of the Wild-Trees. Before which I cannot help taking Notice of another Mistake of Monsieur *Focquenbrog*'s: He was very much in the wrong to tell the World, that at *Elmina*, and several Miles adjacent, there grows neither Leaf, Grass, nor Tree. This is utterly false; for besides the Trees round about *Elmina*, and on the Hills, the Banks of the fresh River, but half a Mile distant, are furnish'd with great Numbers of very fine lofty Trees. From hence, and several other Particulars, it plainly appears, that Gentleman was too partial in his Description of this Coast. It is indeed true, that the Country about *Elmina* is more bare of Trees than other Places; but not so bad as to deserve such a wretched Character.

To return to my Subject, I aver, that the whole Coast is filled with high and low Trees, and the charming shady Groves serve to render the Malignity of this Place more supportable, and to delight those who take their Progress into the Inland Country, that they oblige them entirely to forget the intolerable Badness of the Ways.

Here are some which naturally grow up in such a surprizing manner, as even Art it self must, blushing, own, it could not have contriv'd any thing like it; others grow so thick, and their shady Boughs are so wide extended, that they form entire Alleys, which afford an amazing Satisfaction to any who are inclined to take the Pleasure of Walking.

I remember to have formerly read in *Olearius*, and other Writers, of Trees large enough to shelter two

thouſand Men; and the Tree of which Father *Kirchen* (a Perſon, that, in my Opinion, ſhould advance nothing but Truth) writes, that in its Fruit or Shell (I think it was a Cheſnut) it could lodge a Shepherd and his whole Flock, muſt not be very ſmall, but may very well paſs for a Wonder in Nature; but after all, it is not in the leaſt to be compared with the Trees of this Country. I have ſeen ſome here that twenty, inſtead of two thouſand Men might ſtand under, ſuppoſing them cloſe to one another; and if theſe Authors mean ſo, I don't ſcruple to believe them, nor I believe do you. But to paſs over this; it is certain that here are extraordinary high and large Trees, which may be concluded from the great *Canoes*, of which I formerly wrote to you; and ſince theſe Boats muſt be made of a ſtrait Piece of Wood, equally thick all over, and that very few Trees grow directly ſo, what I offer is not incredible, that the mentioned Canoes do not amount to above half the Bulk of the Tree.

I have ſeen ſome of theſe Trees ſo high, that their Tops and Branches growing out of them were ſcarce to be reached by a common Muſket-ſhot. They are here called *Capot*-Trees: becauſe on them grows a certain ſort of Cotton, here called *Capot*; which is very proper for filling of Beds, eſpecially in this Country, where Feather-Beds are much too hot.

The Wood of this Tree is light and porous, and ſcarce fit for any other Uſe than making of Canoes.

The Tree which our Country-Men at the latter end of the Fifteenth Century, found on *Ilha del Principe*, or, *Prince Iſland*, which was four and twenty fathom in Compaſs, was, I doubt not in the leaſt, this *Capot*-Tree. There is alſo one at *Axim*, which ten Men would have much ado to graſp; not that the Body of the Tree is ſo bulky, but it is ſo vaſtly extended by its prodigious Sprouts which cloſely ſurround it.

If we had any *Roniſh* Prieſts in this Country, we could give them ſome of theſe Branches to build them

ſmall

ſmall Oratories; and then the thorny Prickles with which this Tree is abundantly ſtored, would ſerve to correct and chaſtiſe their unruly Fleſh, and ſave them the Charge of buying Whips.

But to let the Prieſts alone, and to return to our Subject; we have here ſeveral Trees which furniſh very fine working Wood. Firſt of all, in the Country of *Ante*, near the *Brandenburgher* Fort *Acuda*, or *Dorothea*, and behind our Fort *Lydſaembeyd* at *Apam*, is yellow Wood, of which very fine Chairs and Tables are made. At *Rio de Gabon* there is alſo red and yellow Wood, very proper for the ſame Uſe; beſides which, if any Perſons applied themſelves to fell it, there is very good Wood for the making of Rudders, ſmall Maſts, and other Naval Neceſſaries: And I am apt to think, that here are good large Maſt-Trees, or at leaſt ſuch grow here, out of which they might be made, if not for great Ships, yet for Barks, Yatchts, and other ſmall Craft.

To compleat this Diſcourſe of Trees; I ought to tell you that the *Negroes* in all Parts of this Country have ſelected and conſecrated ſome particular Trees, under which they perform their Religious Worſhip; which are generally ſuch in whoſe Production Nature hath diſplay'd her greateſt Perfections.

I have long ſince treated concerning the *Negroes* Idolatry in this particular; Wherefore it is unneceſſary to repeat it here. But taking Leave of the Trees I come next to the Fruits of the Earth; amongſt which firſt of the Corn call'd *Milhio*.

The large *Milhio* is by moſt taken to be the *Turkiſh* Wheat; which is ſo well known in *Holland*, that it is not worth while to deſcribe it.

The *Milhio* is here ſowed and reaped twice every Year; the firſt Harveſt is generally in *Auguſt*, and the other at the latter end of the Year, tho' but ſmall: For the *Negroes* don't ſow much againſt this Time, becauſe it is not reaſonable to expect much Rain, without which this Grain will not come up well.

It were to be wiſhed that Corn were to be produced in our Country with as little Trouble as here: One, or at moſt two Men, can manure and plow as much Land as one Plow can turn up in *Holland*; beſides which, the Corn here very ſpeedily takes Root.

When grown up, the Stalk is once and a half or twice Man's Height; on which one, two, three, and ſometimes four Ears of *Milhio* grow, each of which contains about three or four hundred Grains; ſo that the Millet here increaſes vaſtly more than the *European* Corn.

When the Millet is firſt reaped, in Time of Peace, a thouſand Stalks may be bought for about a Crown *Engliſh* Money; and in ſome Countries for about one third or fourth Part leſs: The Corn of theſe thouſand Stalks being ſeparated from the Stalks, makes above five Buſhels, which is a Sack and a half.

The Grain of *Milhio* is White and Red; the White is the moſt beautiful, but the Red is by moſt People held for the beſt. When this Corn is beaten ſmall, and cleanſed from the Bran, it makes indifferent good Bread, but ſomewhat heavy for want of Yeaſt. If the Millet here were ground, boulted and baked like our Corn in *Europe*, it would doubtleſs become very good Bread: But wanting all theſe Conveniencies, and Leaven being not us'd, the Bread here is very clammy and heavy. This ſhall ſuffice you for the great Millet, or *Turkiſh* Wheat.

The ſecond ſort of *Milhio*, called by the *Portugueſe* Maiz, is a Grain like the Coriander-Seed, and is made into Bread as well as the other, and very much reſembles our ſlighter ſort of Rye: It taſtes very well, and is very nouriſhing. It grows in the ſame manner as the great *Milhio*, only the Stalk is not ſo thick, nor the Ears covered with Leaves as the other is; wherefore it is much more expoſed to the granivorous Birds than the larger, and is not ſown near ſo much as that; for which Reaſon it is one half dearer.

The

The great as well as ſmall *Milhio* is ſowed all along the whole Coaſt, but leaſt of all at *Axim*; wherefore it is always deareſt there. The Country of *Ante*, in fruitful Years and Time of Peace, produces prodigious Quantities: I have ſeen it bought, and have alſo bought my ſelf, one thouſand Stems or Stalks for ſix, ſeven, eight and nine *Takoes*, each *Takoe* amounting to about Four Pence Farthing *Engliſh* Money, and a Sack amounting at higheſt not to Two and twenty Pence. Thus Corn, in Time of Peace, is the cheapeſt of all Proviſions; but in War-time, it ſometimes riſes to an incredible Price: I have known a Thouſand Stalks ſold for an Ounce of Gold, which is ſomewhat leſs than Four Pounds *Sterling*.

To which the Lazineſs of the *Negroes*, which is ſo great, that they ſeldom ſow more than what is like to be conſumed that Year, contributes very much, as alſo the great Number of *Engliſh* Slave-Ships which yearly come to this Coaſt; for theſe not being ſo well victualled as we, they are obliged to buy *Milhio*, which yearly carries off many Thouſand Sacks.

This Corn generally betwixt *February* and Harveſt, riſes from one Crown to one Pound *Sterling* the Thouſand Stems.

Next the Tillage of Corn, follows that of Rice, which is not common all over the Coaſt; nor is there any, or at leaſt but very little, on the Shore of the *Gold Coaſt*, any more than at *Axim* or *Ante*; but on the higher Part of the Coaſt it grows in ſuch prodigious Plenty, that it is eaſy to load a Ship with it, perfectly cleanſed, for one Penny or leſs the Pound: Whilſt at *Axim*, *Ante*, *Abocroe* and *Ancober*, the foul and unſifted bears about the ſame Price.

It is no ſmall Happineſs for the *Negroes* of *Axim* that their Soil is ſo proper for Rice, which in ſome meaſure ſoftens their want of *Milhio*.

Next Rice, by reaſon of its great Advantage to the Inhabitants, is the Fruit called Jammes: They grow under the Earth like Turneps, and are about two Spans

long, and as much in the Graſp or Thickneſs: They ſhoot out a long green Leaf, almoſt like that of *French* Beans, with little Prickles. This Leaf the *Negroes* ſo order, that it climbs up Stakes appointed for that end; and by it they can determine when the Root is come to Maturity, at which Time they dig it out of the Earth.

It is Snow-white within, and is roaſted or boiled, and eaten by the *Negroes*; as alſo by ſeveral *Europeans*, as Bread. Its Taſte is not diſagreeable, being much like that of our Earth-Nuts; and tho' not quite ſo ſweet, is drier and firmer.

In the Country of *Ante* there grows abundance of Jammes, but *Saboe* is the Country which produces them in greateſt Plenty; whence, when in Seaſon, they are ſent by Thouſands to ſeveral other Places. Thoſe who buy them at *Moure*, give about Fourteen Shillings a Hundred, and ſell them again at other Places to good Profit.

The ſecond ſubterraneous Fruit here is called Potatoes; which, like the Jammes, alſo ſends forth a green Leaf that runs along the Ground; ſome Branches of which, cut off and planted in the Ground, in a ſhort Time grow Potatoes; but the Jammes never grow without ſome of the Fruit it ſelf be planted.

Theſe Potatoes are of an oval Shape, commonly like the large long Turneps with us: They, as well as the Jammes, are perfectly white within; and boiled or roaſted, are alſo eaten for Bread; eſpecially at *Fida*, where they are the *Negroes* ordinary Diet: They are ſweet, and eat much better than Jammes, taſting very much like our boiled Cheſnuts.

The Country of *Saboe* produces the greateſt Quantities of this Fruit; and next to that, the Country of *Ante*; of which we may ſay (conſidering it as Part of the Coaſt) that it wants nothing neceſſary to Human Life.

It is told me as Truth, that before the *Portugueze* came to this Coaſt, the *Negroes* ſubſiſted themſelves with

with theſe two Fruits, and a few Roots of Trees; they being then utterly ignorant of *Milbio*, which was brought thither by that Nation.

I am more ſtrongly induced to believe this, becauſe in the Promontory of *Guinea* there are at this Time Countries where no *Milbio*, or at leaſt very little is cultivated; and the Inhabitants live on the two mentioned Fruits, but more eſpecially Jammes.

Thus having deſcribed the four Fruits, moſt neceſſary to the Support of Mankind; it is now proper to give an Account what this Country yields beſides for Food, which moſtly conſiſts in ſeveral ſorts of Beans; the firſt of which are not unlike our Garden-Beans in Figure and Taſte.

The ſecond ſort are a Size larger; their Cods are about three Quarters of a Yard long; and the Bean of a bright red Colour.

The third ſort is almoſt like thoſe ſmall Species, called in *Holland* the *Princeſſes Beans*, only they are of a deep Red: Theſe are not only very good and nouriſhing, but very fine Food.

All theſe Beans grow like *French-Beans* with us, either propt up, or creeping up by a Hedge.

But thoſe which follow, grow in a very different manner: As firſt, a ſort of ſmall Beans here called *Jojootjes*, which, like the Potatoes, run along the Ground, are encloſed in long ſlender Huſks; and when young and green, are extraordinary good Eating.

Here are alſo Beans which grow on Trees, as big as Gooſeberry-Buſhes in *Holland:* Theſe are ſhelled like Green-Peas, ſo that a large Number goes to make up a Diſh; but they are neither ſweet nor ſoft.

Here is alſo another ſort called *Gobbe gobbes*, which grow two together in a Cod under the Earth, and ſhoot out a ſmall Leaf above the Surface of the Earth; theſe are the worſt of all the ſorts of Beans, and yet they are eaten by ſeveral.

The

The ſecond ſort of ſubterraneous Beans, have been known to us but a few Years, and are called *Angola* Beans, by reaſon they were tranſplanted from thence to this Place: They are a very agreeable ſort of Food, if fried, as we commonly do Cheſnuts.

The laſt ſort, which alſo grow under the Earth, are the beſt of all; but indeed they can hardly paſs for Beans, partly becauſe they don't grow in Cods, and partly becauſe they are not eaten as the others are: So that Earth-Nuts would be a proper Name for them; for they are eaten raw out of Hand, and taſte not much unlike Haſel-Nuts: But they are commonly broken in Pieces, ſoak'd in Water, and then ſqueez'd in a Cloth; this Liquor, boiled with Rice, every where in this Country paſſes for Milk; and if help'd with a little Sugar, Cinamon and Butter, it would not eaſily be diſcover'd to be any thing elſe by thoſe who are unacquainted with this Diſh.

Of ſuch Fruits as may ſatisfy a delicate and luxurious Palate, we have very few here. The *Anana's* are by many valued as an extraordinary Fruit, and their Nature and Beauties have been at large deſcrib'd; but, for my part, not to deſpiſe it, I never could yet find the Delicacy in it that is pretended.

Notwithſtanding which, I ſhall take the Pains to ſpeak of it at large, that you may judge how far thoſe are in the right, who have already written ſo much concerning it.

Beſides *Linſchooten* and others, *Simon de Vries*, in his *Curious Obſervations on the wonderful Things of the* Eaſt *and* Weſt-Indies, has alledg'd ſeveral Authors; but I need only give a plain and true Account of the true Nature, Shape and Properties, and Manner of growing of the *Anana's*, to ſhew whether he is in the right or not.

The Plant ſomewhat reſembles the great Houſleek, or *Semper-vivum majus*, which we ſometimes find amongſt the curious Botaniſts in *Holland*; from which it yet differs in the following Particulars: The *Anana's*

ſhoot

ſhoot their Leaves (or that which is taken for them) upwards, being neither ſo broad nor ſo thick as the other; beſides which, the Leaves are furniſh'd with ſharp Prickles on each ſide; and are alſo of a deep yellow Colour, and ſomewhat inclining to Green, whereas the *Semper-vivum* is of a very beautiful Green.

Betwixt the *Anana's* Leaves, before the Fruit appears, grows a Bloſſom about as big as a Man's Fiſt, which is very green, but adorn'd with an extraordinary beautiful red Crown, and ſurrounded with ſmall Leaves, that render it very agreeable to the Sight. This Bloſſom, by ſlow Degrees, grows into an *Anana*; which at firſt is green, accompanied with yellow Leaves, but in ripening, changes to a perfect Yellow; and when we eat the *Anana's*, the mentioned Leaves with which it is ſurrounded are cut off with the Shell. The Crown, or at leaſt a Part of it, remains firmly fixed to the Fruit, tho' changed to a yellowiſh Colour. Before and round about the *Anana's*, ſmall Sprigs ſhoot out, which are planted to continue the Species of this Vegetable. Thus much may ſuffice for the Plant.

The *Anana's*, or Fruit, is about a Span long, and about the ſame Thickneſs; but as it happens to other Fruits, ſome are large and others ſmall.

Moſt of the Authors *de Vries* cites, agree in the Taſte of this Fruit; to which I can eaſily ſubſcribe, taking the Liberty to add, that tho' it may for a little while ſeem a Delicacy, yet if frequently eaten, it will ſoon nauſeate. It proves moſt agreeable and healthful when eaten with Cinamon, Sugar and Wine, like Strawberries; for it is too hot to eat alone: Wherefore *Monardus* was miſtaken in aſcribing to them a cold Quality; when, indeed, it inflames to that degree, that its ſharp Juice cauſes thoſe to ſpit Blood who eat them too freely. But tho' this ſharp hot Juice forces Blood from the Throat and Gums; yet that they are ſo corroſive as to diſſolve a Knife that remains

mains ſtuck in it but half an Hour, is ſo ridiculouſly falſe, that, if inſtead of half an Hour, the Knife remained a whole Year, it would not be diſſolved. It is indeed true, that the Knife will be blunted; which alſo happens in the cutting of a Citron, Lemon, Orange, Backoven or Banana's, and more eſpecially the laſt Fruit, if it is not throughly ripe; ſo that this Acidity cannot juſtly be appropriated to the *Anana's* only.

I cannot quit this Subject without noting a groſs Miſtake of the before-mentioned Authors. *Linſchooten* firſt tells us, that the *Anana's* grow a Fathom above Ground; and others inform us, that they grow half under: But both are miſerably in the wrong, this Plant really not being above one Foot and a half in Height, and the Stalk half a Foot; which together amount to two Foot, which is far ſhort of a Fathom and more, if they make it grow ſo much under Ground.

All the Pains I have thus far taken in the Deſcription of the *Anana's*, was a Force I put upon my Inclinations; and if any one pleaſe to aſſert that this Plant in *Aſia* or *America* is of a different Nature, they are at Liberty to do it; whilſt I am abundantly ſatisfied from Travellers in both thoſe Parts of the World, that there is no real Difference.

Next the *Anana's*, I ſhall place the Water-Melons; about which, tho' much the nobler and more agreeable Fruit, I ſhall not detain you ſo long. The immature and yet ſmall Water-Melon is White within, and Green without; but when ripe, its green Coat is ſpeckled with White, and its internal Whiteneſs ſomewhat intermix'd with Red; and the more it participates of the latter, it is by ſo much the riper and more agreeable; at which Time, if eaten, it proves very delicious, watry, refreſhing, and cooling.

This Fruit is leſs prejudical to, and much more proper for a feveriſh Perſon than the *Anana's*. When green, it is eaten as Salad, inſtead of Cucumbers; to which

which it is not wholly unlike, being alſo furniſhed with ſuch Kernels; which, when ripe, are changed Black, and then fit to plant.

The Water-Melons grow in the ſame manner as Cucumbers, but bear a different Leaf: They are about twice as big as our Melons; and if the *Negroes* were not too idle, this Fruit would be very plenty here: But at preſent they are only cultivated by ſome of our chief Officers, ſo that the Commonalty reap but ſmall Advantage thereby.

They are in their prime in *July* and *Auguſt*, and in fruitful Years we have them twice.

Theſe are all our beſt Fruits in this Country; but that I may be able to ſay that I have omitted nothing whether good or bad, I ſhall not paſs over the following Species.

The firſt of which is *Malagueta*, otherwiſe called Paradice-Grains, or *Guinea* Pepper, a Fruit which is generally known. It grows on Shrubs in red Shells or Huſks, which at a Diſtance afford a very pleaſant Proſpect. Within theſe Huſks is contained the *Malagueta*, ſeparated into four or five Diviſions, and covered by a white Film. This *Guinea* Pepper grows alſo in a different manner, not unlike large Graſs Reeds.

Here grows alſo a Fruit on Shrubs, which in Taſte and Figure reſembles *Cardamum*, which I doubt not but it is.

At *Benin* and In-land, there is Pepper in Figure like that of *Eaſt-India*.

The laſt ſort of Pepper called here *Piement*, and in *Europe*, *Spaniſh* Pepper, grows here in Abundance on Shrubs, almoſt of the ſame Size, tho' ſomewhat lower than our Gooſeberry-Buſhes in *Holland*.

This *Piement* is of two ſorts, *viz.* great and ſmall; both of which are firſt Green, but afterwards change Colour, the ſmall to a beautiful Red, and the large to a Red and Black; and are both very pleaſant Objects.

This

This Fruit is much hotter than common Pepper, especially the smaller sort, which is not above one fourth Part of the Size of the other; in Recompence of which the Trees on which it grows are about six times as high, and wider extended than the other.

Piement pickled in Vinegar and Lime-Juice (but best in the last) is valued by several as a good corroborative to the Stomach, and very wholsome.

This Country produces none of those green Herbs common in *Europe*, except Tarragon and Tobacco; of both which here is great Plenty, especially of the last, which stinks so abominably, that it is impossible for one that is even not very nice to continue near the *Negroes* when they smoak this deviliſh Weed; which yet agrees very well with them.

Some of them have Pipes made of Reeds, which are about six Foot long; to the End of which is fixed a Stone or Earthen Bowl, so large that they cram in two or three Handfuls of Tobacco; which Pipe thus filled, they without ceasing can easily smoak out; and they are not put to hold their Pipe, for being so long, it rests on the Ground.

All the Inland *Negroes* take this Tobacco, but those who live amongst us, and daily converse with the *Europeans*, have *Portugueze*, or rather *Brasil* Tobacco; which, tho' a little better, yet stinks to a great degree.

Both the Male and Female of the *Negroes*, are so very fond of this Tobacco, that they will part with the very last Penny which should buy them Bread, and suffer Hunger rather than be without it; which so enhances the Price, that for a *Portugueze* Fathom, which is much less than one Pound of this Trash, they will give five Shillings, or a Gold Quarter of a *Jacobus*.

Let us therefore rather praise those Smoakers (my good Friend) who take the noble *Spanish* or *Virginia* Tobacco; but as for those stupid Wretches who content themselves with the *Amorsfort* Weed, I heartily wish,

wish, as a Punishment of their depraved Taste, that during their Lives they may never smoak better than our *Negroes*, and *Brasil* on Sundays and Holidays; yet under Condition they be obliged to keep Company with each other, and be banish'd the Company of genteel Smoakers: But this by the way only.

The Tobacco-Leaf here grows on a Plant about two Foot high, and is of the Length of two or three Hands-breadth, and the Breadth of one, bears a small Bell-flower, which, when ripe, turns to Seed.

To conclude, I will add a Fruit which grows in lofty Trees, is rather larger than a Walnut, and furnished with much such a Shell: The Kernel is divided into several Parts, of which some are Red, others White.

Not only the *Negroes*, but also some of the *Europeans*, are infatuated to this Fruit: We call it *Kool* or Cabbage, and the *Negroes Boesie*. It is chawed in the Mouth, and after the Juice is sucked out, the Remainder is spit out.

Its Taste is very harsh, and almost bitter, and draws the Chewer's Mouth almost close: And its sole Virtue is Diuretick; but its Admirers pretend it helps to relish the Palm-Wine; tho' both Reasons are not sufficient to engage me to the Use of it. It is commonly eaten with Salt and *Malagueta*.

If I had been obliged to bestow a Name on this wretched Fruit, I should rather have called it the *African Beetel* or *Anca*, which would have been much properer than Cabbage; since whatever I have heard concerning the *Indian Beetel* or *Anca*, exactly agrees with the Taste and Virtue of this Fruit.

I might very well leave off here, as not conscious of any important Omission in the Description of the *Gold Coast* of *Guinea*; but lest you should accuse my Performance, as Spiritless, Insipid and Saltless, I shall make bold in the Conclusion of this Letter, and the whole Description of the *Gold Coast*, to set as much Salt before you as will stock you for House-keeping

for

for one Hundred Years: What think you, Is not that enough?

It is not to be imagined what vaſt Riches the *Negroes* get by boiling of Salt; and if they were always, or for the moſt part in Peace, thoſe who follow that Employment would in a ſhort time amaſs unweildy Sums; for all the Inland *Negroes* are obliged to fetch their Salt from the Shore, from whence it is eaſy to infer that it muſt coſt them very dear: Wherefore the meaner Sort are obliged to make uſe of a certain ſaltiſh Herb inſtead of Salt, which their Purſes will not reach.

Some Miles Inland beyond *Ardra*, from whence moſt of the Slaves are brought, one, nay, ſometimes two Slaves are ſold for a Handful of Salt; ſo that Human Fleſh is there very cheap.

The manner of Salt-boiling is as follows. Some boil the Salt-Water ſo long in Coppers till it comes to Salt; but as this is the moſt tedious, ſo it is not the moſt profitable Way, and is practis'd only where the Land is ſo high, that the Sea or Salt-Rivers cannot poſſibly flow over them: But at other Places where the Sea or River-Water frequently over-flows, they dig deep Pits to receive the mentioned over-flowing Water; after which the freſheſt and fineſt Part of the Water is dried up by the ſcorching Heat of the Sun. I know this contradicts the Hypotheſis of a certain Author; but he ought to know alſo that the Ground being here ſaltiſh and nitrous, a ſmall Quantity of Water will make better Salt, and that quicker than a great deal; which renders this Place the more fit to produce a great deal of Salt in a ſmall Time.

In other Places they have Salt-Pans, where the Sun dries up the Water, ſo that the Trouble of boiling is unneceſſary, no Pains being required except that only of gathering it out of the mentioned Pans.

Thoſe who are either unable or unwilling to buy Copper-Boilers, or when the Sea-Water requires ſuch tedious Boiling as would burn them: Theſe, I ſay,

uſe Earthen Pots, which they ſet ten or twelve next one another; thus making two Rows, being all cemented together with Clay as if they had been done by a Bricklayer; and under the mentioned Pots, is ſomething like a Furnace of Fire, which is continually ſupplied with Wood: This is the moſt laborious Way, and produces neither ſo much Salt, nor ſo much Expedition as the other.

In all Parts of this Coaſt, except *Acra*, the Salt is very white, but more eſpecially in the Country of *Fantyn*, where it almoſt excels even Snow it ſelf.

Thus much for this Time; and when another Opportunity offers, perhaps I may preſent you with an Account of the Country of *Ardra*; tho' I will not aſſure you of any thing, but that I am really Yours, *&c.*

LETTER XVII.

Which, by way of Supplement to the former, deſcribes firſt a Snake taken at Axim, *that was twenty two Foot long; alſo another not much leſs at* Boutry. *A ſtrange Engagement betwixt a Snake and two Porcupines at* Mouree. *Another Accident with a Serpent which blinded an* European *with his Venom. The Tygers here; a Boy torn in pieces by them. The Author's Tyger-Hunting, and how he came to kill him at laſt. A Deſcription of the Jackals. A remarkable Adventure with an Elephant killed at* Elmina. *A Deſcription of a certain Spider which the* Negroes *call* Ananſe, *and imagine that it created the firſt Man.*

SIR,

IN my former Letters, I have ſeveral times promiſed you to ſpeak more particularly concerning this, or t'other Animal; and more eſpecially our Elephant and Tyger-Hunting: All which Promiſes this ſhall diſcharge; but firſt of all I am inclined to ſay ſomething concerning the Serpents or Snakes.

About Eleven Years paſt, the *Negroes* of *Axim* took and killed a Snake that was two and twenty Foot long; which being opened, a full-grown Deer was found in his Entrails.

About the ſame time another was killed at *Boutry*, not much ſhorter than the former; in whoſe Body a *Negro* was found.

Some of my Servants once going to the Country beyond *Mouree*, found a Snake ſeventeen Foot long, and very bulky, lying about a Pit of Water, perhaps to divert himſelf; near which were two Porcupines, betwixt which and the Snake began a very ſharp Engagement, each ſhooting very violently in their way; the Snake his Venom, and the Porcupines their Quills of two Spans long, for with ſuch they were armed. My Men having ſeen this Fight a conſiderable Time, without being obſerved by the furious Combatants (in the Heat of the Battel) after having loaded their Muſkets, let fly upon the Three Champions to ſo good purpoſe, that they killed them all, and brought them to *Mouree*, where they were devour'd by them and their Comrades as a very great Delicacy.

Whilſt our Fort was repairing at *Mouree*, the Workmen perceiv'd a great Snake behind a Heap of Stones; to get him from thence, they removed many of the Stones, ſo that half his Body was cleared. A Maſon, the forwardeſt in this Enterprize, laid hold of his Tail, deſigning to pull him out from betwixt the Stones; but finding that impracticable, cut off as much of his Body as was in reach with his Knife; and believing he had diſabled him from doing any farther Miſchief, without the leaſt Shadow of Fear removed the Remainder of the Stones; but as ſoon as the Snake was at Liberty to turn himſelf, he clung about the Maſon (who thought to have caught him in his Hand) and ſpit his Venom all over his Face; which proved ſo forcible, that the Fellow at that very Inſtant became ſtark blind; in which Condition he remain-

remained ſome Days, but was at laſt reſtored to his Sight. This I have frequently obſerved, eſpecially in *Negroes*, who, upon being ſtruck by a Serpent, have ſwelled extreamly, but ſoon aſſwaged, and returned to their former Eſtate: So that I am apt to think that the poiſonous Nature of Snakes is very different, the Bite of ſome being mortal, others only wounding; and that there are another ſort which are as harmleſs as thoſe of *Fida*.

Of this laſt Species is that which hangs in the Director-General's Hall, which is fourteen Foot long, and was taken at our Garden at *Elmina*, by an *Ardraſe* or *Fidaſe* Slave, with his bare Hands, without any Stick or Weapon, and by him ſo brought alive into the Caſtle. We found at the lower Part of his Belly two Claws like thoſe of Birds; which, I ſuppoſe, ſerved him either to erect himſelf upright, or to leap. But of him enough, ſince I have already ſaid ſomething of him in my laſt Letter but two: Wherefore we ſhall now apply our ſelves to the

Tygers, which here do the moſt Miſchief, and are extraordinary fierce. Some Years paſt a Boy that belong'd to our Factor at *Sacondee*, going but a little way from the Factory, was killed by one of them.

At the ſame Time and Place a *Negro* going Inland with his Hatchet in his Hand to cut ſome Wood, met a Tyger which fell upon him; but he being a dextrous Fellow, ſo well defended himſelf with his Hatchet, that after a long Scuffle he conquer'd and kill'd the Tyger; but did not come off unhurt, for his whole Body look'd as if ſomebody had begun to flea him.

In the Year 1693. when I commanded in the ſaid Fort, ſome of my *Kabriets* (for ſo we call Sheep) as well as thoſe of my Neighbour the *Engliſh* Factor, were for ſeveral Nights killed by a Tyger; which at laſt grew ſo bold, that he came at Three in the Afternoon to the Lodge, and killed a couple of Sheep. I perceived him time enough, and aſſiſted by my Gunner, two *Engliſhmen*, and a Party of *Negroes*, all

armed with good Muſkets, I purſu'd him, and in a ſhort time overtook him; tho' not ſo ſoon, but that he had Opportunity to fly to a ſmall Thicket of Under-woods, which we immediately beſet: My Gunner adventur'd into the Thicket, to find whereabouts he lurked; but in half a quarter of an Hour came running back like a diſtracted Man, having left his Hat and Slippers behind him, after being alſo bitten; but to his very good Fortune, the Tyger intending to have ſeiz'd him, was ſo affrighted by the falling Branches, that he gave him Opportunity to make his Eſcape, and the Tyger kept the Wood.

One of the *Engliſhmen*, impatient at waiting ſo long, reſolved to march into the Wood with his Muſket, if poſſible to diſlodge him. The Tyger, which was but too ſoon aware of him, ſuffer'd him to approach cloſe to him; upon which he fell upon him with extream Fury, ſeizing him with his Feet by the Shoulder-blade, and fixing his Teeth in his Side; and would, without doubt, immediately have torn him in pieces, if by crying out, he had not drawn me with a Party of *Negroes* to his Aſſiſtance, which obliged the Tyger to quit his Prey.

Notwithſtanding which he was ſo miſerably handled, that he lay ſenſeleſs about half a Day, which was partly occaſion'd by the Venom of the Bite, and partly by the Fright.

The *Negroes* were ſo terrified at the ill Succeſs of this Enterprize, that utterly bereft of all Courage, each quitted his Poſt where he was appointed to watch, which afforded the Tyger an Opportunity of Eſcape, which he ſoon attempted; but in his Flight out of the Thicket happened ſomething very odd.

The Under Factor of the *Engliſh* Fort had long called out and promiſed me (for this Adventure happen'd juſt under that Fort) that he would come to my Aſſiſtance; and the very Moment the Tyger quitted the Wood, being as good as his Word, he came with his Muſket in his Hand: But the Tyger ſeeing him alone

alone before him, made to him; upon which the *Engliſhman*, inſtead of coming to us, run as faſt as his Legs would carry him back towards their Fort; but affrighted and tired with hard Running, he fell over a Stone about half a Muſket-ſhot from home. The Tyger had already overtook him, when we ſtood trembling at a Diſtance, imagining he would immediately tear him in pieces; but he coming up to him, inſtead of attacking, turned from him, and took his Flight forwards Inland, ſoon getting out of our Sight.

I can give no other Reaſon why he did not fall on the *Engliſhman*, than that perhaps he was afraid of us, who followed him with a great Cry, if poſſible to terrify him; for it was not practicable to ſhoot at him, by reaſon he was too near the *Engliſhman*, and we might as well have chanced to have hit the one as the other; or perhaps the Beaſt thought he had Honour enough by having his Enemy under-Foot; with which he being ſatisfied, retired.

Thus ended this Chace, and I don't deſire ſuch another; for I have ſeveral times been in danger, that the *Negroes* by their Random-ſhot ſhould hit me inſtead of the Tyger.

This Tyger was not hereby deterr'd from coming again ſome Days after, and killing ſome Sheep, which provok'd me to attempt another way to catch him, that I had ſeen in the Country of *Ante*.

I cauſed a Parcel of very thick Palliſadoes to be cut; of which I made a ſort of Cage of twelve Foot long, and four broad, covered alſo on the Top with Palliſadoes, to bind which the firmer, I laid a thouſand Pound Weight of Stone on it, to prevent his breaking out above. Then I cauſed a double Plank-Door to be made for my Cage, and in one of the Corners I made a leſſer Cage, which took up one fourth of the Room of the whole; in which I placed a couple of ſmall Hogs; after which I ſet the Door like our Rat-Traps, in ſuch a manner that the Tyger could not come in to

ſeize the Hogs, without throwing it down, and ſhutting himſelf in; when it would be impoſſible for him to come at the Hogs by reaſon of the Palliſadoes which fenced them in their little Cage.

This Stratagem ſucceeded ſo well, that three Days after I had finiſhed my Trap, I caught the Tyger in at Midnight. But inſtead of roaring, as I imagined he would, immediately he ſet his Teeth at work, if poſſible, to eat his way out of Priſon; which he had certainly done, if he had had but one half Hour's Time; for he had ſoon rent the inner from the outer Door, and eaten the Palliſadoes half through, when I interrupted him in his Work; and not to dally with fruitleſs ſhooting, I clapt the Muzzle of my Muſket, loaded with three Balls, betwixt the Palliſadoes; at which he furiouſly catched, and ſo furniſhed me with a very favourable Opportunity to diſpatch him at one Shot; by which I puniſhed his Thievery and Murther.

We found him about the Size of a common Calf, well provided with large Teeth and Claws.

This Tyger-catching obliged us with a Feaſt of eight Days; for by the Cuſtom of the *Anteſe* Country, he that catches a Tyger is privileg'd for eight Days to ſeize all the Palm-Wine which is brought to the Market, without paying any thing for it; which accordingly we did, and the whole mention'd eight Days were ſpent by the *Negroes* in Shooting, Dancing, Leaping, and all manner of publick Jollity.

The Country of *Axim*, but much more that of *Ante*, is full of Tygers: They frequently in the Night-time come not only under, but alſo into our Forts, and do a great deal of Miſchief, making no Difficulty of leaping over a Wall of ten Foot high.

Before I leave this Subject, I cannot help refuting the Opinion of ſome People; that the Tyger is ſo afraid of Fire, that without any other Arms than that alone, 'tis poſſible to drive him away. I was once of this

this erroneous Opinion my ſelf, but have been convinced of the contrary by Experience.

For after having receiv'd a Viſit of two from a Tyger; to affright him for the future, I kindled a great Fire where the Sheep uſed to ſleep in the Night; but not ſufficiently relying on that, I order'd five of my Servants to lye by the Fire with loaded Arms: But notwithſtanding all this, the Tyger came in the Night, and killed a Sheep between my two Lads, who were fallen aſleep, and was moving towards the Fire; when my Servants, awaken'd with the Cry of the Sheep, immediately flew up, intending to let fly at him, but he immediately run away.

From hence it appears, that the Tyger is juſt as much afraid of Fire, as the Devil of the Croſs; and this Accident confirms the Report of the *Negroes*, that this Beaſt will never attack a Man when he can come at a Beaſt; for otherwiſe he could more eaſily have fell on my two Boys than a Sheep.

Next the Tyger in Fierceneſs, is, the Jackal or wild Dog; of which I have already ſpoken in the Deſcription of *Acra*. I had an Opportunity of gratifying my Curioſity with a Sight of it in the Year 1700, when the preſent King of *Commany*'s Servants having ſhot one, were ſo civil as to bring it to the Caſtle: He was as big as a Sheep, with longer Legs; which, in Proportion to their Size, were very thick; whence you may judge of his Strength. He was cover'd with ſhort Hair, which was ſpotted; his Head was very large, flat and broad, provided with Teeth, each of which was a Finger's breadth and more; ſo that in all probability, his greateſt Strength is lodged in his Mouth and Legs; joined to which, he alſo hath terrible Claws.

I will here preſent you with an Example of the fierce Boldneſs of this Brute, which happen'd at *Acra*; where one of theſe Beaſts by Night boldly came into a *Negro*'s Houſe, and took away a Female *Negro*, which he flung upon his Back, and held her faſt

with one Leg, intending to proceed on his Journey with his Prey, halting upon three Legs: But the Cries of the poor Captive waked a parcel of *Negroes*, and brought them to her Relief; which they soon effected, and found her only a little Hurt by the Claw with which he held her fast.

I shall now add something concerning the Elephant; of which I have in one of my former Letters told you, that, unprovoked, he very seldom falls on Mankind; but when urged to it, falls on with wondrous Fierceness: Both which I shall here confirm by a couple of Instances; and shew you how difficult it is to kill them.

Beyond *Axim*, a *Negro* that was accustom'd to the Elephant-Chace, and had killed several, endeavouring to shoot at one, but missing his Shot by a Flash in the Pan, the Elephant grew so enrag'd, that he pursu'd, set on him, and broke him and his Musket to pieces.

The second Accident is more remarkable, and may serve as an Instruction to others, that for the future they be not too rash.

In the Year 1700, in *December*, at Six in the Morning, an Elephant came here to *Elmina*, walking easily along the Shore under the Hill of St. *Jago*: Some *Negroes* were so bold as to go against him without any thing in their Hands, in a sort to welcome and bring him in. He suffered them to encompass him, and very quietly went along with them to just under Mount St. *Jago*; where one of our Officers belonging to that Hill, and a *Negro* which came down with him, fired on him immediately; and the Officer's Ball hit him above his Eye: This and the following Shot which the *Negroes* poured on him, were so far from provoking him, that they did not move him to mend his Pace in the least, he only seemed to threaten the *Negroes* betwixt whiles, but still let them alone.

It was surprizing, when he threatned to fall on the Men, to see him prick up his Ears, which were of a prodigious Size: However, he went on, and lastly, stept

ſtept into our Garden, expecting perhaps civiler Treatment there.

This extraordinary Accident, and our own Curioſity, drew the Director-General and my ſelf into the Garden; and we were ſoon followed by ſome of our People. We found him ſtanding in the midſt of the Garden; where, before our coming, he had broke down four or five Coco-Trees; which Number, either to divert himſelf, or ſhew us his Strength, he augmented with five or ſix more in our Preſence. The Strength which he ſeemed to uſe in breaking down a Tree, may very fitly be compar'd to the Force which a Man exerts in order to knock down a Child of three or four Years old.

Whilſt he ſtood here, above one hundred Shot were fired at him, which made him bleed to that degree, as if an Ox had been killed. During all which he did not ſtir, but only ſet up his Ears, and made the Men apprehend that he would follow them.

But this Sport was accompany'd with a tragical Event; for a *Negro* fancying himſelf able to deal with him, went ſoftly behind him, catched his Tail in his Hand, deſigning to cut a Piece of it off; but the Elephant being uſed to wear a Tail, would not permit it to be ſhorten'd in his Life-time: Wherefore, after giving the *Negro* a Stroke with his Snout, he drew him to him, and trod upon him two or three Times; and, as if that was not ſufficient, he bored in his Body two Holes with his Teeth, large enough for a Man's double Fiſt to enter. Then he let him lye, without making any farther Attempt on him; and ſtood ſtill alſo whilſt two *Negroes* fetched away the dead Body, not offering to meddle with them in the leaſt.

From both theſe Inſtances it is ſufficiently clear, that, unprovoked, they do not often hurt any Body; but that they grow very fierce when ſhot at and miſſed, doth not ſo plainly appear, ſince this Elephant ſuffer'd above three hundred ſhot to be made at him, without any ſign of being enraged, or Reſiſtance: But as the

ſame

ſame Actions have not always the ſame Succeſs, I ſhould be loth from hence to adviſe any Perſon raſhly to fire at an Elephant, ſince this vaſt Number of Shot which were thunder'd at him were not ſufficient to fetch him down; and thoſe who pretend throughly to underſtand the Elephant-ſhooting, told us, that we ought to have ſhot Iron Bullets, ſince thoſe of Lead are flatted, either by their Bones, or the Toughneſs of their Skin.

This ſeems probable; for after his Death, we found, of the vaſt Quantity of Shot levell'd at him, very few had paſſed the Bone into his Head. Some remained betwixt the Skin and the Bone; moſt of them, and more eſpecially the ſmall Shot, were thrown off by his Hide, as if they had been ſhot againſt a Wall. The Bullets were certainly too ſmall, ſince what the *Engliſh* Factor told me, was confirmed by others, that as he was in the River *Gambly* in a *Canoe*, he killed an Elephant, which purſued him, with one Shot only. For to imagine that none of the Balls hit him in the proper Place, is not very reaſonable, ſince in ſuch a great Number, at leaſt one muſt hit right, as appeared after his Death.

After the Elephant had killed the *Negro* (which happen'd not above ſixteen Paces from us) and had been about an Hour in the Garden, he wheeled about as if he intended to fall on us, which made all that were in the Garden to fly, each endeavouring to ſecure himſelf by getting away; but the greateſt Part made to Mount St. *Jago*, thinking indeed, with Reaſon, that if they could reach that, they ſhould be ſafe; But the Elephant follow'd no Body out of the Garden, which was very fortunate; for otherwiſe, amongſt ſuch a Number of People, he had undoubtedly made a great Slaughter, ſince no Body by ſwift Running could have eſcaped him; which I believe on Horſeback is ſcarce to be done.

We all flew out of the Garden, as I have told you, through the Fore door, and the Elephant took to the Back-

Back-door; which, whether in his way, or whether it was narrow for him to paſs, I can't tell; but he flung the Door, tho' a Brick and a half thick, a good Diſtance; which I had the good Fortune to ſee a good way off, but could not obſerve that to do that, he very much exerted himſelf, but rather ſeemed only to touch it lightly.

After which he did not paſs through the Gap where the Door had been, but forced through the Garden-Hedge, going very ſoftly by Mount St. *Jago* towards the River, where he bathed himſelf, in order to waſh off the Blood with which he was beſmeared, or to cool himſelf after the Heat occaſion'd by ſo much Shot.

After having refreſh'd himſelf a little in the River, he came out, and ſtood under ſome Trees where were ſome of our Water-Tubs; where he alſo cooled himſelf, and broke them in pieces, as he did alſo a Canoe which lay by them.

Whilſt the Elephant ſtood here, the Shooting began to be renewed, till at laſt he fell down; after which they cut off his Snout, which was ſo hard and tough, that it coſt the *Negroes* thirty Strokes e'er they could ſeparate it, which muſt be very painful to the Elephant, ſince it made him roar; which was the only Noiſe I heard him make: After this he died under the mentioned Tree; confirming the Report of the *Negroes*, who tell us, that whenever an Elephant finds his Death approaching, if able, he always gets under a Tree, or into a Wood.

For the Truth of which, tho' I will not be oblig'd to anſwer, it hath yet thrice happen'd at *Elmina:* And at *Gabon* I found a dead Elephant in a pleaſant Thicket; of which more hereafter.

The Elephant was no ſooner dead, than the *Negroes* fell on him in Crowds, each cutting off as much as he could; ſo that he furniſh'd a great many, as well Whites as Blacks, with Food enough for that Day.

He was not very large, his Teeth not weighing above four and thirty Pound. Thus we had the Diverſion

verſion to have a near View of an Elephant, and to ſee him partly exert his Strength; and the Pleaſure had been much greater, if not allayed by the Misfortune of the poor *Negro*, tho it was his own Fault. Hence we began to reflect to what Danger we had expoſed our ſelves by venturing ſo near the Elephant; for had he but once grown furious, his Rage would doubtleſs have coſt ſeveral Mens Lives, and perhaps we ſhould have fallen the firſt, not being ſo ſwift of Foot as the *Negroes*; beſides, all making one way, we ſhould have been in the way, and obſtructed one another's Flight.

Upon this Conſideration, we reſolved never for the future to come ſo near an Elephant; to which I would not adviſe any Man, who hath the leaſt Tenderneſs for his Life.

Whilſt I am writing this, an Accident that happen'd to me at *Moure*, occurs to my Memory; which obliges me to add what follows. Going to my Chamber at Night in order to go to Bed, I found an hideous great Spider againſt the Wall. On account of the ſtrangeneſs of the Spectacle, I called my Sub-factor, and both my Aſſiſtants to ſee it. We found his Body long, and his Head ſharp, broader in the fore than hind Part, but not round as moſt ſort of Spiders are: His Legs were as large as a Man's Finger, ten in Number, being hairy, and the Thickneſs of a little Finger.

The *Negroes* call this Spider *Ananſe*, and believe that the firſt Men were made by this Creature: And notwithſtanding ſome of them by Converſation with the *Europeans*, are better informed, there are yet a great Number that remain of that Opinion, out of which Folly they are not to be reaſon'd. This is the greateſt Piece of Ignorance and Stupidity that I have obſerved the *Negroes* guilty of; which I have once already hinted to you.

Be pleaſed, Sir, to take this Letter as a Supplement to the Deſcription of the *Gold Coaſt*; on which Subject you are to expect no more. And what reſts is, that you continue always aſſured of, Sir, Yours, *&c.*

A DESCRIPTION OF THE Slave Coaſt.

LETTER XVIII.

Which firſt treats briefly of the Country of Quahoe, *which is abundantly enrich'd with Gold: After that of the Kingdom of* Landingcour, *and Country of* Lampi, *whoſe King and Subjects are ſubmitted to the Obedience of* Aquamboe: *This Country affording very great Plenty of all ſorts of Cattel. Of the Slave-Trade there, Agriculture and Fiſhery. A Copious Deſcription of* Rio Volta. *The ſmall Force of* Lampi, *or the* Coroſe *King; and their continual Wars with thoſe of* Popo. *The Land is dry Sand, without Hills, and very barren. Slave-Trade there. The Inhabitants converſible and good-natur'd. Their Poverty; they live chiefly by Robbery. The Multitudes of Idols here. A Deſcription of little* Popo; *its Barrenneſs. Of its Inhabitants, thoſe which are baniſhed* Acra, *are good Soldiers. Their War with thoſe of* Offra *and* Fida; *what paſſed therein. They alſo live upon Spoil and Slave-Trade. Their Villanous Nature; and ſome Inſtances of their Cheating. Formerly a great Trade was driven at this Place. Multitudes of Rats. A Deſcription of great* Popo, *which was ſubject to* Fida, *but is revolted from it. Their Wars occaſioned thereby; in which they were Victorious.* Popo *an Iſland, wants Proviſions. Slave-Trade there;*

there; our Company formerly had a Lodge there. Popo *is accounted to be in the Country of* Ardra. *Where the Country of* Fida *begins. The violent burning of the Sea before it, does a great deal of Miſchief. Some Inſtances of it. The ſtrong Current before* Fida, *ſtops the Ships. Pleaſant Proſpect of the Entrance of that Country. Extent of it. It is well cultivated, and very fertile. Deſcription of* Fida; *Nature of the Inhabitants; their Civility as well to us as to one another. Their Compliments. They are very laborious. Their Occupations. Womens Work. They eat and drink well. Work for ſmall Wages. Great Slave-Trade there. The Men marry many Wives; of which they are very Jealous. Severe Puniſhment inflicted for lying with another Man's Wife; eſpecially the King's, which muſt not be touched, and ſome not permitted to be ſeen. Great Number of the King's Wives, of which he ſometimes ſends away a good many, without his Number being diminiſh'd. The Women not fond of being the King's Wife. The eldeſt Son is ſole Heir to his Father's Eſtate, as well as to his Father's Wives. The King married his own Daughter. Multitude of Children here. Thieviſh Nature of the People here; ſome Examples of it. Their rich Cloathing. Red Colour prohibited to be worn by any not of the Royal Blood. Convenient Habit of the Women. All their Heads are ſhorn. Great Offerings in time of Sickneſs. They are extreamly afraid of Death; which muſt not be ſo much as mention'd in the Preſence of the King, or any of the Chief Men. An agreeable Adventure of the Author's on that Account. The Inhabitants of* Fida *make no Diſtinction of Time; are natural Arithmeticians. Menſtruous Women utterly unclean. Their Circumciſion. Muſical-Inſtruments: They are great Gameſters.*

SIR,

YOurs of the 25th reach'd me in good time; and reading at the very firſt your Thanks, I flatter'd my ſelf that you were pleaſed with the Deſcription of the *Gold Coaſt*, which I imparted to you; but going on, I found my ſelf miſtaken, and that you would not be ſo eaſily ſatisfied, but farther deſire an Account of thoſe Countries, where our Company, and other Nations, drive their Slave-Trade: And that I might not want an Employment, you add a Supplemental Requeſt, that I would lay the whole Coaſt of *Guinea* before you. Well, my Friend, Was it not enough to ſet me ſuch a Task, but you muſt alſo rally me, and acquaint me, that Idleneſs in this Country is very prejudicial to my Health? Which to preſerve, of conſequence it is abſolutely neceſſary to have ſome-

thing

thing to do; as if I wanted Employment, beſides this you have found me: If you think that any Perſon of an active Genius can want Buſineſs here, I dare aſſure you that you will find your ſelf miſtaken. Idleneſs here, and I believe all the World over, is only the Lot of thoſe Idiots, which ſcarce know either what they do, or wherefore they live: And to let you ſee that I am none of thoſe, I ſhall anſwer your Demand, by writing you not only what I have my ſelf obſerv'd of theſe Countries; but alſo whatever is conſiderable in thoſe Places where I have never been, nor never deſire to come; tho' I am not willing to be Security for the Truth of all which I ſhall ſay: But yet I dare aver, that the Perſons from whom I have my Informations are ſo creditable, that I ſhould freely rely on their Words in Things of much greater Importance; and therefore believe that nothing prepoſterous will be found in the Relations.

So as I have received my Information, I ſhall faithfully tranſmit it to you, without adding any thing of my own; but if their Method diſpleaſe me, or diſagree with what I have hitherto obſerved, I ſhall make bold to change it a little; and this is the utmoſt Alteration I intend. And that you may know beforehand what Countries they are which you will find deſcrib'd from the Information of others in the following Recital; be pleaſed to obſerve, that the Deſcription of the Country from *Ardra* through the whole Gulph of *Guinea* to *Rio de Gabon*, with the Tract of Land *Weſt* of the *Gold Coaſt*, and from the Gold River to *Cabo Monte*, is not mine: But all the reſt you may take for my own; no Part of which is the Reſult of any thing but my own Obſervation.

This being, in my Opinion, a ſufficient Advertiſement, I ſhall begin with a Deſcription of the remaining Part of *Guinea*, through which I have travelled.

Be pleaſed to remember, that in my Fifth Letter I ended the whole *Gold Coaſt*, with the Village of *Ponni*, tho' the Gold is brought to us from the Country a little

little lower, namely, out of *Quahoe*, which abounds with that Metal, and is ſituate beyond that Tract of Land; but by reaſon of the ſmall Acquaintance I have with that Country, as alſo becauſe its Inhabitants go through *Aquamboe* to *Acra*, where they drive the greateſt Part of their Trade: Paſſing over this, I ſhall confine my ſelf to the Sea-ſide only, telling you withal, the Tract of Land betwixt *Ponni* and *Rio Volta* is about thirteen Miles long, being inhabited by the *Negroes* of *Acra*, *Lampi*, and *Aquamboe*.

Thoſe of *Lampi* have a King of their own, with the Title of King of *Ladingcour*; tho' in reality he and his Subjects (if they may be ſo called) depend entirely on the King of *Aquamboe*, according to whoſe Will and Pleaſure he is obliged to regulate himſelf; for upon the leaſt Diſguſt which he or his People give to thoſe of *Aquamboe*, they are ſo ſeverely puniſh'd, that the Remembrance of it remains for ſeveral Years; which is yet ſtiled a mild and merciful Chaſtiſement: For whenever the King of *Aquamboe* takes a Fancy to it, he makes nothing of cutting them a Foot ſhorter; which Puniſhment they are forced to ſubmit to without murmuring, he having at leaſt as deſpotick a Power over them as his own Subjects.

The Country hereabouts is indifferent Populous and Fertile, but extraordinarily ſtored with Cattel, as Cows, Hogs, Sheep, beſides Chicken, *&c.* All which are here daily bought very cheap by the Blacks of the *Gold Coaſt*, to tranſport to the upper Coaſt.

The remaining Trade of theſe People conſiſts in Slaves; which are alſo bought up by the mentioned *Negroes*: But moſt of them are tranſported hence by the *Engliſh*, *French*, and *Portugueze* Ships. Sometimes the Slave-Trade here proves very advantageous, eſpecially about the Village *Lay*.

It ſometimes happens that when the Inland Countries are at Peace, here are no Slaves to be got: So that the Trade of this Place is utterly uncertain; and it

it only ſerves to touch at in our Paſſage this way, without depending on any thing from it.

Beſides Trade, the Inhabitants employ themſelves in Agriculture and Fiſhing; the firſt of which proves reaſonably profitable; but the Fiſhery, eſpecially that on the Sea, turns to no, or at moſt, but ſmall Account; for the Shore here is very high, and of very difficult Acceſs: Wherefore it is ſometimes unapproachable with ſmall *Canoe's*; but the want of Sea-Fiſh is here abundantly compenſated by the Lakes and Rivers, which are extraordinarily richly ſtock'd with Fiſh.

Rio Volta, probably ſo called by the *Portugueze*, by reaſon of its rapid Courſe and Reflux, bounds this Tract of Land.

This is a fine wide River, diſcharging its Waters ſo violently into the Sea, that it is ſometimes viſible three or four Miles from the Shore: How far this River extends its Courſe Inland, is to me unknown. The extraordinary rapid Reflux into the Sea, continually carries great Numbers of Trees along with it; which ſticking faſt at the Mouth of the River, occaſion a very high Burning of extraordinary Violence, as well as lofty Agitations of the Waves: So that this Place is paſſable with *Canoe's* but twice in the Year, and that is commonly betwixt *April* and *November*, the Weather being then ſtill upon the Coaſt; which generally is juſt before the rainy Seaſon, when conſequently the Reflux of the River is not ſo ſwift: But after the Rains, 'tis not poſſible to perſwade a *Negro* to venture, tho' they are continually uſed to paſs in their Boats along the Shore, which here, by reaſon of the mentioned Burnings, they can't do.

I have four times paſſed by this River on Board of Shipping, and each time ſome of our People were ſent Aloft, that by diſcerning the Mouth of this River, they might ſee whether we had paſſed it or no; and they commonly called to us from Aloft, that they ſaw its Mouth, and that they were right before it,

and at it, or a little way *Eaſt* or *Weſt* of it; which the Maſters of the Ships, through Ignorance, and I, as well as they, firmly believed.

But in the Year 1699, coming in a *Canoe* from *Fida*, I cauſed my ſelf to be rowed as cloſe to the Shore as poſſible, and as the Burnings would permit; but as curious and exact as we were in our Obſervation, we could deſcry no Mouth, nor the leaſt Opening; but diſcover'd the Truth of what one of my Servants (who had performed this Journey by Land) told me, that this River at a ſmall Diſtance from the Shore, and throughout, is prodigious wide; but that *Weſtward* 'tis thwarted by a whole Tract of Land, which leaves it but a ſmall Opening or Paſſage: And it is natural enough to believe, that by reaſon of the wideneſs within, and the violent Reflux of this River, the Ebb which paſſes this ſmall Mouth muſt be much ſtronger than if this Paſſage was proportion'd to the Size of the River: But enough of this.

Eaſtward of this River, the *Cotoſe* Country, by moſt called the Land of *Lampi*, beginneth. From this River to the Village *Coto* or *Verbon*, is about fourteen *Dutch* Miles; the Village having formerly been the Place of Reſidence of the King of *Coto*, where I ſaw and ſpoke with him in the Year 1698.

This Kingdom is very inconſiderable in Strength, which yet abates daily by its Wars with *Popo*, that have continued for ſome Years ſucceſſively; and they being pretty even in Force, unleſs they make Peace, their Diſpute is not like to be ended before one of them engages ſome other Country to their Aſſiſtance.

But *Aquamboe*, who would keep them both on foot, takes care that neither be deſtroyed, by ſending Aſſiſtance of Forces to the weakeſt Side.

When *Aquamboe* was govern'd by two Chiefs, as I have formerly told you, thoſe of *Popo* had a ſtronger Supporter of the old, as they of *Coto* of the young King: Thus each Side was continually furniſhed with *Aquamboean* Props.

But how it will go with them when the old King is dead, Time will inform us. Those of *Little Popo* in 1700, watched their Opportunity, and surprizing those of *Coto*, fell upon them, and obliged them to quit their Country; but I doubt not but those of *Aquambo* will soon reinstate them, and clap a Bridle into the Mouth of the *Popoens*.

The Land of *Coto* is of a direct contrary sort of Nature to that of the *Gold Coast*; for as the latter is full of Hills, so the former hath not one; but the Soil is very flat, sandy, dry, barren, and void of all Trees, except the Palm or Wild Coco, of which it produceth a great Number.

This Land is tolerably provided with Cattle, at least as many as are sufficient to supply its Inhabitants.

River Fish is not wanting here, but they can get none out of the Sea, by reason of the violent Burnings which extends from this Place to *Ardra*, and farther along the whole Coast.

Their Trade is that of Slaves; of which they are able sometimes to deliver a good Number, but yet not so many as to lade a Ship.

I found the Inhabitants here very good-natur'd and civil, I received several Civilities from them, especially from the King: When I told him, that after having accomplish'd my Merchandize at *Fida*, I design'd to return by Land, he offer'd to come himself with his whole Force to receive me on the Borders of his Territories, and to conduct me beyond *Rio Volta*, in order to secure me from any Mischief from the strolling Robbers. I thankfully accepted this kind Offer, and I should certainly have made use of it, had not those of *Little Popo* (who had also promised to conduct me through the Extent of their Land) caused me to be dissuaded from it by their Ambassadors, under Pretence they were afraid I might be set on by the Robbers before they came to me.

This Diſſuaſive was very faint, and the ſaid Ambaſſadors underhand encouraged me to this Land-Tour, urging it as their private Advice, which naturally diſcover'd their Villany; which was, that they deſign'd to murther me on my Journey, and conſequently have ſtolen all my Goods; beſides which, they would yet have cleared themſelves, by urging, that they adviſed me againſt going that way.

I was on this account frighten'd from undertaking my intended Tour; by which I ſhould otherwiſe have diſcover'd ſome Particulars worthy your Curioſity.

But to return to the Inhabitants of *Coto*. In Politicks, Religion and Oeconomicks, they very nearly reſemble thoſe on the *Gold Coaſt*, except that I found here a vaſt Quantity of Idol-Gods. Their Language is moſtly that of *Acra*, with a very ſmall Alteration. By reaſon their Trade is ſmall, they are very poor; very few of them being rich. Their moſt advantagious Trade is taking a Journey Inland, and ſtealing Men, which they ſell to the *Europeans* that come here with their Ships. This is the beſt part of their Subſiſtance, and indeed all I have to ſay of them.

From *Coto* to *Little Popo* is about ten Miles; the Country being as the former, flat Land, without either Hills or Trees, and extraordinary ſandy, even to ſuch a degree, that all Victuals there dreſſed is continually full of Sand, and not edible; of which I was very ſenſible during my three Days Continuance there: For the King richly enough provided me with Victuals; but for the mentioned Reaſon I could not eat it, but was forced to fetch Proviſions from on Board our Ship to keep my ſelf alive.

This vaſt Quantity of Sand, with which the whole Land is cover'd, renders it ſo barren, that the Inhabitants are forced to be victualled by thoſe of *Fida*, or at leaſt for the moſt part.

The Inhabitants here are the Remains of the Kingdom of *Acra*, behind our Fort there; from whence they were formerly driven by the King of *Aquamboe*.

Thoſe who eſcaped, ſettled here, where they may remain long enough; for it is not probable that they will ever return to the Poſſeſſion of their Country.

I have already mention'd their Wars with thoſe of *Coto*. They are not very populous; but on the other hand, are very Warlike. Not many Years ſince, they had a brave Soldier for their King, whoſe Name was *Aforri*, Brother to the preſent King: This Prince, on account of his Valour, was very much feared and reſpected; but his greateſt Stock of Fame redounded to him when the *Phidalgo* of *Offra* rebelled againſt the King of *Great Ardra*, his Lord and Maſter, whoſe Yoke he ſhook off, and beſides killed our chief Factor *Holwerf*.

For to revenge theſe accumulated Crimes, the King of *Ardra* perſuaded King *Aforri* to come againſt him with all his Force; which he did, and made ſuch ſhort work with thoſe of *Offra*, that he conquer'd as ſoon as ſaw them; waſted their Country, and deliver'd the Offender into his Sovereign's Hands. But, not content with this Victory, and puſhed on by the King of *Ardra*, he marched againſt the People of *Fida*, and encamped in their Conntry; but wanting Powder, he delayed attacking the *Fidaſians*, in Expectation of having it ſent him according to the King of *Ardra's* Promiſe; which he did not fail to do in large Quantity, under a good Convoy: But the *Fidaſians* getting Intelligence of it, fell upon the Convoy with a very ſtrong Party, defeated it, and ſeiz'd all the Powder; which *Aforri* being inform'd of, and finding himſelf, for want of Ammunition, not able to ſtand againſt his Enemies, made a ſpeedy as well as very ſeaſonable Retreat; for the *Fidaſians* intended to have fallen on him with their whole Force the next Day, when he and all his Army would probably have been very roughly treated.

His Enemies, informed of his Flight, were not in the leaſt inclined to purſue him; but on the contrary,

did not a little rejoice to find themselves rid of such a dangerous Enemy.

Aforri being returned into his own Territories, was acquainted that his Neighbours of *Coto* were ready to have assisted *Fida*, if he had stayed any longer in their Country; which he so highly resented, that with utmost Animosity he took the Field against them; and desiring nothing more than to come to a close Engagement with them, he attack'd them, tho' stronger than himself; but they receiv'd him so warmly, that they had quickly kill'd a great Part of his Army; Upon this, furiously enrag'd and desperate, and careless of himself, he flew amongst the thickest of the Enemy, where he was so surrounded, that it was impossible for him to return; upon which, with several of his Men, after a valiant Resistance, he was left dead on the Spot.

The present King, tho' more peaceable and mild, yet prudently revenged his Brother's Death on the *Cotosians*, always attacking them in their weakest Condition; which Measures he pursued so long, as to drive them out of their Country.

The Inhabitants of *Popo*, as well as those of *Coto*, depend on Plunder and the Slave-Trade; in both of which they very much exceed the latter; for being endow'd with a much larger Share of Courage, they rob more successfully, and consequently by that means increase their Trade: Notwithstanding all which, to freight a Ship with Slaves, requires some Months Attendance.

In the Year 1697, in three Days time I could get but three Slaves; but they assured me, that if I would have Patience for other three Days only, they should be able to deliver me one or two hundred. I seemed to approve their Proposal, but went on Board under pretence of fetching some Goods ashore, which they desired, and immediately weighed Anchor, and set Sail for *Fida*; where I was inform'd that their Incursions succeeded so well, that they returned with above two Hundred

Hundred Slaves; which, for want of other Ships, they were obliged to ſell to the *Portugueze*.

This Nation is more than ordinary fraudulent and thieviſh. It is their common Practice to aſſure the Merchant or Factor that they have a Stock of Slaves, only to draw him on Shore; which having done, they never part with him without having fleeced him, and beſides detained him ſeveral Months.

The *Portugueze* are cheated by them more than any Nation; notwithſtanding which, they cannot avoid Trading with them, by reaſon they are loaded with ſuch ſorry Goods, that they can ſcarce get Slaves any where elſe.

In 1698, I found a *Daniſh* Ship there, which was obliged to wait a longer Time to deal for Five Hundred Slaves, than I ſpent in Trading for Two Thouſand at *Fida*: During which Time, they met with ſuch ample Proofs of their villanous Nature, that I don't believe any of that Nation will venture thither again.

A Year or two before this, they dealt in the ſame manner with an *Engliſh* Ship, and beſides cheated him of ſome of his Goods; but he coming thither again in my Time, recover'd his Damages in the following manner: As ſoon as he had dropt Anchor before *Popo*, ſome of the Great Men, amongſt whom was the King's Son, came on Board him; all which he clapt in the Bilboa's, from whence he did not diſcharge them till he was firſt reimburſed, and had obliged them to pay a Sum beſides.

In the Reign of this King's Brother, this Nation was more eaſily dealt with, for when he had done his Buſineſs, he would not ſuffer his Subjects to impoſe on the *Europeans*. In his Time, one of our Companies Ships in eleven Days dealt for above Five Hundred Slaves; but that is not likely to happen again, for that Nation is at preſent ſo fraudulent, that undeniably every Perſon that deals with them muſt be more or leſs cheated.

It is perfectly unneceſſary to touch any further on the Nature and Cuſtoms of theſe People, ſince being originally Inhabitants of *Acra*, in Religion and Government they do not much differ from their Countrymen.

During my Stay here, I found ſuch an incredible Number of Rats, that I thought my ſelf bound in Charity to advertiſe the Inhabitants to be upon their Guard, and deſtroy thoſe Vermin, leſt increaſing upon them, they ſhould in Time drive them out of their Country.

Four Miles *Eaſtward* from hence is the Kingdom of *Great Popo*, whoſe King was firſt in Subjection to *Fida*; but the preſent King being ſet upon the Throne by the preſent King of *Fida*, in the room of his Brother, whom he had baniſh'd, in Reward of the Favours of the *Fidaſian* Monarch, he hath withdrawn his Allegiance, and thrown off that Yoke: At which the *Fidaſian* was ſo much enrag'd, that he raiſed a great Army, which he ſent againſt *Popo*, together with the Aſſiſtance and Ammunition which he received from ſome *French* Ships that then lay before *Fida*, deſigning nothing leſs than to extirpate them; which he was alſo encourag'd to hope, becauſe the *French* Ships likewiſe ſail'd to fall upon that Country by Sea. But *Popo* being an Iſland ſituate in the midſt of the River, both the *French* and *Fidaſians* were forced to make uſe of Floats to come at them; and that Nation had put it ſelf in ſuch a Poſture of Defence, that it not only received its Enemies warmly, but after bleeding them, put them to Flight, without the Loſs of one Man on their ſide; for they fired very briſkly out of their Houſes, and unperceived of their Enemies, by which means they killed a great Number of *French* and *Fidaſians*; and ſo diſorder'd their Forces, that throwing down their Arms, they run over one another to make their Eſcape; and if the *Popeans* had follow'd their Victory, in all Probability not one

Frenchman would have eſcaped alive, they not being ſo ſwift as the *Negroes*.

Since this ſo unſucceſsful Enterprize, the King of *Fida* hath not ventur'd on any freſh Attempts with his own Forces; but hath been endeavouring even to this preſent Time to hire other Nations to engage in the Quarrel; but tho' it hath already coſt him large Sums, yet the only Succeſs he hath met with, is to be cheated on all ſides: Wherefore, much againſt his Will, he is obliged to ſuffer the King of *Popo* in quiet Poſſeſſion of his Iſland.

The Inhabitants of *Popo* have ſcarce any Dwelling-places beſides the King's Village; which, as I have told you, is an Iſland; and that ſo thinly Peopled, and ſo infeſted by the *Fidaſians*, that they cannot cultivate their Land quietly: Wherefore they very frequently want Proviſions, and would be ſtarved, if they were not furniſh'd with Edibles from even the *Fidaſians*, their greateſt Enemies, who continually run the Riſque of Capital Puniſhments, by reaſon of the Profit they find to accrue by Victualling the *Popeans*.

The Natives of *Great Popo* Trade alſo in Slaves; which, if no Ships come thither, they ſell to thoſe of *Little Popo*; but their greateſt Gain is by the Fiſh which they catch in their River, and Trade with abroad.

Some Years paſt, we had a Houſe or Lodge here; but by reaſon of the Declenſion of Trade, ſince the Enmity betwixt *Fida* and *Popo*, after the Death of our Factor, we left it; and ſince that Time we have not traded with them.

This *Popo* is the firſt Place which can properly be reckon'd to be in the Country of *Ardra*: The *Ardraſian* Language, with very ſmall Alterations, is here ſpoken. The Government alſo is here upon the ſame foot; of which more in the Deſcription of *Fida*, where I ſhall give you a Sketch of it.

Juſt

Just *Eastwards* of *Popo*, the Country of *Fida* takes its beginning, and four or five Miles lower is the Road and Port.

This Port is so incommodious and dangerous by reason of the horrible Burnings in the Sea, that we cannot land here without running a great Risque; but in *April*, *May*, *June* and *July*, the Sea burns so violently, that, according to the Proverb, he ought to have two Lives who ventures.

About this Season, dismal Accidents are very frequent here, great Quantities of Goods are lost, and many Men drown'd; for the Sea-Burning is so violent, and rolls so, that a *Canoe* full of People is overturn'd, and the *Canoe* shatter'd into Splinters in a Minute; by which means all that are in it are in danger to be lost, except the Rowers, who, through their Skill in Swimming, may perhaps save themselves: This overturning of *Canoes* happens every Day.

When I was here in the Year 1698, besides Slaves, there were five Men lost here, *viz.* a *Portugueze* Captain, a Clerk, and three *English* Sailors; besides two Captains which were brought ashore for dead, and lived but a very little while after.

This Port hath cost me, or rather the Company, at several Times, above Two Hundred Pounds; and doubtless it must have been more expensive to the *English* and others who have not so good Rowers.

At this time of the Year, we are troubled with another Inconvenience, which is a strong *Eastern* Tide, which no Boat or Shallop can stem by Rowing; but those in the Boats are obliged to set 'em along, by sticking their Pole in the Ground; so that what with one Fatigue or another, we are detained here twice as long as is necessary to our Slave-Trade: But when our Fatigue is over, and we are got on Shore, we seem to have passed from Hell to Heaven; for having escap'd the apparent Dangers of the Sea, and discerning such beautiful Meadow-Ground about half a Mile off, we cannot help being overjoy'd on the account not only

of

of our Delivery, but likewiſe of the future Pleaſures this Country promiſes.

For three ſeveral times I have lived here about three Months, not that Merchandizing required ſo long Time; for reckoning one Ship with another, I could diſpatch each of them in leſs than a Month; and which is yet more, I have laden three in fourteen Days; but what obliged me to ſtay was, waiting for a Yatcht to carry me off, and preparing for my Voyage.

During my Stay here, I uſed all poſſible Means to diſcover the Length and Breadth of this Kingdom, but could never obtain a farther ſatisfactory Account, than that its Extent along the Sea-ſhore is about nine or ten Miles; and in the Middle it reaches ſix or ſeven Miles Inland: After which it extends like two Arms; and in ſome Places is ten or twelve Miles broad, and in others much narrower: So that it is impoſſible for me to oblige you with an exact Account of its Breadth; but I hope we ſhall not quarrel.

It is, however, unqueſtionably certain, that this Country is ſo very populous, that in one Village alone, as the King's, or any of his Viceroy's Villages (for Inſtance) there are as many People as in a common Kingdom on the *Gold Coaſt*: And this Land is well furniſh'd with theſe large Villages, beſides innumerable ſmall ones, which are obſervable throughout the whole Country, ſome not above a Muſket-ſhot from each other; for thoſe who live out of the great Villages or Towns, build and ſettle where they pleaſe: So that each Family builds a ſmall Village, which increaſes as that multiplies.

The great Number of theſe Villages, compoſed of Houſes, which are round at the top, and encompaſs'd with Mud-Walls or Hedges, together with the great Numbers of all ſorts of beautiful and lofty Trees, which ſeem deſignedly planted in exact Order, afford the moſt beatiful Proſpect in the World; to render which the more charming and perfectly agreeable, not

ſo

ſo much as one Mountain or Hillock interpoſeth to interrupt the View; but the whole is a ſort of inſenſibly riſing Ground, which is not diſcover'd till you have gone forwards an Hour or two, when turning back, your Eyes are regaled with a Proſpect of the moſt charming Place that Imagination can repreſent; nor can I believe that any Country in the World can ſhew the like. Beſides which, this Land is cover'd with a beautiful Verdure, compoſed either of Graſs or Trees, and plentifully provided with three ſorts of Corn, Beans, Potatoes, and other Fruits; which grow ſo cloſe to each other, that in ſome Places a Foot-Path is the only Ground that is not cover'd with them: For the *Negroes* of this Country are ſo covetous, that no Place which is thought fertile can eſcape Planting, tho' even within the Hedges which encloſe their Villages and Dwelling-places; and they are ſo very greedy in this Particular, that the very next Day after they have reaped, they are ſure to ſow again, without allowing the Land any Time for Reſt.

The Charms of this Country have ſo far tranſported me, that I have inſenſibly paſſed through it; but ſince on account of its Excellence (comparatively taken, and conſider'd as on this Coaſt) it deſerves a very particular Deſcription: I therefore deſign to divide it into three Heads, *viz.* Firſt, I ſhall treat of the Nature and Manners of the Inhabitants. Secondly, Of their Religion and Government. And, Thirdly, Of the Cattle and Fruits of this Country.

As the Firſt will take up the Remainder of this Letter; ſo the other Two ſhall be treated of each in a Letter apart. But I deſire you not to be tired, if they all, but more eſpecially this, happen to be ſomewhat long: I ſhall not grudge my Pains in writing it; and if you put too great a Value on the Time to read it, the Remedy is eaſy, you may tear off what you will, and not waſte ſo much Time on it as to peruſe it.

But as to my Firſt Particular; I muſt needs ſay that the Inhabitants of *Fida* far exceed all other *Negroes* (that

(that I have had the Opportunity of converſing with) both in good and bad Qualities; as the following Lines, if worth your reading, will inform you.

I muſt own, that from the higheſt to the loweſt, they treat us in the moſt civil, obliging and engaging manner in the World; and as all *Negroes* continually teize us for Preſents; theſe, on the contrary, never deſire beyond a Mornings Draught; and had rather give than receive. When we Trade with them, they are very well pleaſed we acknowledge the Services they have done us; but they are incorrigibly fond of their ancient Cuſtoms; but this is ſo reaſonable, that no Perſon can deny them that Privilege.

They are ſo civil to each other, and the Inferior ſo reſpectful to the Superior, that at firſt I was very much ſurpriz'd at it; for if any of them goes to viſit his Superior, or meets him by Chance, he immediately falls on his Knees, and thrice ſucceſſively kiſſes the Earth, claps his Hands, wiſhes the Superior a good Day or good Night, and congratulates him; which the other, either ſitting or ſtanding, or whatever Poſture he is found in, barely anſwers, with ſoftly clapping his Hands, and wiſhing the other a good Day; and if he is extraordinary civil, he ſaith, it is enough. All which Time, the former remains ſitting or proſtrate on the Earth till the other departs, unleſs his Affairs call him away; when, after begging Leave, he retires creeping on the Ground; for it would be thought a great Crime to ſit upon a Chair or Bench in preſence of his Superior.

The like Deference is paid by the younger to the elder Brother, the Children to the Father, and the Wives to their Huſbands; none of which will deliver or receive any thing to or from his or her Superior, Brother, Father, or Huſband, otherwiſe than upon the Knee, and with both Hands together, which is a ſign of yet greater Subjection; and if they ſpeak to any of the ſaid Perſons, their Hand is always clapped before

their

their Mouth, that their Breath may not offend the other.

When two Persons of equal Condition meet each other, they fall both down on their Knees together, clap Hands, and mutually salute, by wishing each other a good Day; which Ceremonies are also nicely observ'd by their Followers and Dependants on each side, which looks very agreeable.

If a principal Person happen to sneeze, all those in their Presence fall upon their Knees, and after having kissed the Earth, and clapped their Hands, wish him all Happiness and Prosperity.

When a Person is presented with any thing by his Superior, having received it, he claps it in his Hands, and after kissing the Earth, very submissively returns Thanks. In short, the Inferior here shews as much Respect to the Superior, as I believe is practised in any Place of the World; which is very different from the *Negroes* on the *Gold Coast*, who live together without any Distinction, like Brute Beasts.

Nor do they differ less from the mention'd *Negroes* in Industry; for whereas the *Gold Coast Negroes* indulge themselves in Idleness, as their favourite Vice; here, on the contrary, Men as well as Women are so vigorously industrious and laborious, that they never desist till they have finished their Undertakings; and are continually endeavouring after Work, in order to get Money.

Besides Agriculture, from which the King and a few Great Men are only exempted, their Manufactures are spinning of Cotton, weaving of fine Cloaths, making of Calabasses, wooden Vessels, *Assagayes*, and Smiths-ware; and several other Handicrafts, which are in greater Perfection here than on the *Gold Coast*; besides which, they also have some which the other have no Knowledge of.

Whilst the Men are so diligently employ'd, the Women are not idle; they brew, or rather boil Beer, and dress Victuals, which they carry to Market to sell, toge-

together with their Huſbands Merchandize; So that both Men and Women here are employ'd in getting of Money, and each zealouſly ſtrives to outdo the other. Hence it is that they live very ſplendidly, and not as the Blacks on the *Gold Coaſt*, who dare not think on a good Morſel when it is dear; for theſe, on the other ſide, as well the higher as the lower Sort, eat of the beſt that is to be gotten, as long as they have any thing to ſupport it; and when that fails, they are upon the Hunt to get more; but to aſk them to work with an empty Belly, would be to knock at a deaf Man's Door; on which account I think no Man can blame them, ſince it is but reaſonable that they ſhould, before they begin, be ſenſible for what they take Pains.

They work for ſmall Wages, and the Service which the meaner Sort do us, conſiſts in carrying our Goods from the Shore to the King's Village, where our Houſe is; This being about three Miles, for every Burthen of Goods we commonly pay from Eight to Twelve Pence, in Proportion to the Weight of it, the Price of each Burthen being exactly adjuſted. From hence you may collect, that the Men work very cheap here; but they play an After-game, of which I ſhall hereafter inform you.

With a Burthen of One Hundred Pounds on their Head they run a ſort of continual Trot, which is ſo ſwift, that we *Hollanders* cannot keep up with them without Difficulty, tho' not loaded with an Ounce Weight.

Thoſe who are very rich here, beſides Huſbandry, in which their Wives and Slaves are employ'd under them, drive a very conſiderable Trade, not only in Slaves, but all other ſort of Commodities.

They are ſo diligent in the Slave-Trade, that they are able to deliver One Thouſand Slaves every Month, if there are no Ships at *Jakin*, which is ſubordinate to *Great Ardra*, and ſituate but three Miles below *Fida*, which makes a very ſenſible Alteration; for the

King of *Great Ardra*, through whoſe Territories moſt of the Slaves are obliged to paſs, when the Ships are there, to favour his own Subjects, very commonly ſhuts up all the Paſſes to *Fida* by a very ſtrict Prohibition; upon which his Subjects are obliged to deal by Stealth with thoſe of *Fida* (againſt whoſe King he is an irreconcileable Enemy) which yet they continually do, ſeeming not much concern'd at their King's Diſputes. Notwithſtanding which, Trade doth not flouriſh ſo well, as when the King of *Ardra* leaves Commerce open betwixt his Subjects and thoſe of *Fida*.

The remaining Cuſtoms and Manners of the Natives of *Fida*, not affecting their Religious Worſhip, are very like thoſe on the *Gold Coaſt*, excepting only, as I have already hinted, that theſe exceed the other in all Particulars of Living; for whereas the former content themſelves with one, two, ten or twenty Wives; they have here forty or fifty, and their chief Captains three or four Hundred; ſome one Thouſand, and the King betwixt four and five Thouſand.

Moſt of theſe Wives ſerve to Till the Ground, for their Huſbands only; but the moſt beautiful ſtay at home, where they are not yet excuſed from working; beſides which, they are obliged to ſerve and wait on their Huſbands. No rich *Negro* will ſuffer any Man to enter the Houſes where his Wives reſide.

The Men here are ſo ſtrangely jealous of their Wives, that on the leaſt Suſpicion in the World they ſell them to the *Europeans*; being in this Particular very different from the *Negroes* of the *Gold Coaſt*, who make no manner of Scruple of driving a publick Trade with their Wives Body.

The Cuſtom of this Country is vaſtly different from that; for if any Perſon here preſume to debauch another's Wife, if the injur'd Perſon is a rich Man, the Offender muſt not only die, but ſuch a Crime is beſides that ſufficient to plunge his whole Family into Slavery.

If

If any Perſon happen barely to touch any part of the Body of one of the King's Wives deſignedly, or by the moſt unforeſeen Accident in the World, his Head, or at leaſt his Liberty is thereby forfeited; he being, for a Puniſhment of his innocent Crime, doom'd to perpetual Slavery: Wherefore all thoſe whoſe Buſineſs lies near the King's Houſes, call out aloud, that his Wives may be informed there is a Man thereabouts.

For the ſame Reaſon the King (as I have before hinted) is ſerved by his Wives in his Houſe, not permitting any Man to enter the Walls thereof, unleſs to repair it, or do what the Women cannot; upon which occaſion the Women are obliged to retire to another Part of it.

When the Workmen are tiling or repairing the King's Houſe, they continually call out, that the King's Wives may, during that time, keep within; for if they ſhould happen to ſee them only, it would be imputed to them as a Crime.

So when the King's Wives go to the Field to work, as they do by Hundreds, they are certain, whenever they meet a Man, to cry out, *Stand clear*; after which he either immediately falls on his Knees, or flat on the Ground, and waits their paſſing by him, without preſuming ſo much as to look at them.

On account of the leaſt Diſguſt or Trifle, the King ſometimes ſells eighteen or twenty of his Wives, which does not at all leſſen their Number: For three of his principal Captains, to whom the Government of the *Seraglio* is entruſted, daily ſupply their Places with freſh Ladies; for whenever they ſee a beautiful Virgin, they immediately preſent her to the King, which none of his Subjects dare preſume to refuſe or contradict.

When a Lady is preſented to the King that happens to pleaſe him, he does her the Honour to lye with her twice or thrice; after which ſhe is oblig'd to paſs the Remainder of her Life like a Nun.

For which Reason the Women are so far from being greedy of the Honour of being the King's Wives, that some of them prefer a speedy Death to such a miserable Life.

About two Years past, these Captains endeavoured to bring him a beautiful young Maid; but she not being very fond of a Nun's Life, fled from them; and they pursuing her, she despairing, threw her self into a deep Well, in which she was stifled. I leave her Case to be determin'd by the Ladies.

Upon the Father's Death, the eldest Son inherits not only all his Goods and Cattle, but his Wives, which he immediately holds and enjoyeth as his own, except his own Mother, for whom he provides a separate Apartment and sufficient Subsistance, in case she cannot live without it. This Custom obtains not only with the King and Captains, but also amongst the Commonalty.

This present King married two of his own Daughters; but they dying quickly after, and his brutal Pleasures being of a short Duration, he imagines that the gods that way punish'd him for his Crime; which hath drawn from him an Oath never to repeat it for the future.

To prevent Temptation, in my Time he married his only Daughter to the *English* Company's Factor here: And once talking very freely with him, I, in a jesting Manner, imposed a sort of Fine upon him for having made me the first Offer of her. He willingly paid his Fine; adding withal, that tho' his Daughter was married, she was yet at my Service, if I desired her, since one Word was sufficient to call her Home.

What think you, Sir, Are not this King's Daughters very cheap? But the Mischief is, that marrying a King's Daughter in this Country is not very advantageous; otherwise I had not failed long since to have been happy that way.

From ſuch a Multitude of Wives a great Number of Children may reaſonably be expected, ſuppoſing the Men in a State of Procreation; for changing of Diet (according to the Proverb) ſharpens the Appetite; and that Whet not being wanting here, the Work of Propagation advances with incredible Succeſs; for the Women not being very barren, and the Men vigorous, it is not to be doubted, ſince they, beſides eating and drinking very well, uſe other Means to provoke Nature, which is in them very briſk and lively: It is not, I ſay, to be wonder'd at, that their Iſſue ſhould be very numerous. You will eaſily believe this, when I aver to you, I have ſeen Men that were Fathers of above Two Hundred Children; but however, to put it out of doubt, not only my ſelf, but ſeveral others who have enquired into it, are aſcertain'd of the Truth of it by two Inſtances: The firſt of which is one of the King's Captains, that ſerved us ſeveral Years as an Interpreter, whoſe Name is *Agoei*.

I once aſked him in preſence of one of our Captains and my Aſſiſtant, how many Children he had, having always obſerv'd a good Number with him; to which he ſighing, anſwer'd, that he had been ſo very unhappy in that Particular, as not to have many, and that he could not pretend to above Seventy: I aſked him whether he had not had more that were dead; he told me, yes, about as many as were at preſent alive. And yet this Man thought that both theſe Numbers, making together One hundred and forty, were but a very ſmall Number; from whence you may gueſs what Number is ſufficient to make a Man rich, or well ſtock'd with Children.

The King, who was preſent at this Converſation, aſſured me, that one of his Viceroys, aſſiſted by his Sons and Grandſons, with their Slaves, had repulſed a powerful Enemy which came againſt him: That this Viceroy, with his Sons and Grandſons, could make out the Number of Two Thouſand, not reckoning

Daughters, or any that were dead. Judge then, Sir, whether if a new World were diſcover'd, theſe Men would not be fit to People it.

If what I have told you is true, as I don't in the leaſt doubt but it is, being confirm'd by the King's Aſſeveration in the Preſence of all his principal Men, and this whole Country is ſo prolifick, it is not very ſurprizing that it is ſo populous, or annually ſells ſo many Slaves.

Having detained you long enough on the Head of the Marriages of the *Fidaſians*, let us now take a View of their dealing with, or keeping the Goods of others. To this purpoſe is what the King ſaid to me the firſt time I came to *Fida:* His Majeſty's Advice and Character of his Subjects run thus. "That his Subjects "were not like thoſe of *Ardra*, and other neighbour- "ing Countries; which upon the leaſt Umbrage recei- "ved from the *Europeans*, would poiſon them. This "is, continues he, what you have no Reaſon to fear "here; but I adviſe you to take particular Care of "your Goods, for my People ſeem to be born expert "Thieves, and will rob you of no more than they "can come at.

I was entirely ſatisfy'd with this frank Declaration of the King's, reſolving to be ſo careful, that their pilfering Nature ſhould not much redound to my Damage; but I reckon'd without my Hoſt, for I afterwards found that they were the greateſt and moſt cunning Thieves in the World.

Except three or four of the moſt conſiderable Men, all this Nation, High and Low, Rich and Poor, are tainted with this Vice. In ſhort, not to exclude any Body in the whole Country, as I have before hinted, they are ſuch expert Thieves, that they obliged a *French* Merchant to ſay of them, *That they underſtood the Art of Thievery better than the Cut-purſes and Pick-pockets of* Paris.

Would you know what extorted this Character of that Nation from him? It was, that being ready to depart,

depart, he had pack'd up all his Goods in his Pack-houſe; to which he had alſo added a great Number of Chickens, deſign'd for his Voyage, reſolving to ſhip off all the next Day; but he was excuſed that Trouble, for when he came to his Warehouſe next Morning, he found neither Goods nor Fowl, tho' the Warehouſe was firm and cloſe, and well lock'd; ſo that he could not imagine which way the Thievery had been acted; tho' I afterwards diſcover'd the Trick at my Coſt.

The *Negroes* of the *Gold Coaſt* are very thieviſh, but are not to be compared with theſe. I never ſaw a Ship here, of what Nation ſoever, that they have not robbed of Goods to a conſiderable Value: For, as I have already told you, it being three Miles from the King's Village to the Shore; all which way we are neceſſitated to make uſe of theſe Villains to carry our Goods, they are hereby furniſh'd with the beſt Opportunity in the World to play their part; of which there is no hindering them; tho' inſtead of *Argus*, you had a Watchman with one Thouſand Eyes, they would yet deceive him; and if we happen to catch them, and reprehend them for it, they have Aſſurance enough to aſk us, whether we can imagine that they would work ſo hard as they do, for ſuch ſmall Wages, without the Liberty of ſtealing?

In my Time, the *Engliſh* ſowed up their ſmall Barrels of *Boeſies* (the Money of this Country) in Sacks, thinking thereby to have ſecured them from the pilfering Fingers of the *Negroes*: But they were miſtaken; for as they were carrying them, on the Way they cut the Sacks of the Barrels, and dug out their *Boeſies* at the Chinks of the Barrel with an Iron Chiſſel: They are acquainted with an hundred ſeveral Ways of Stealing, which would be too long to recite here.

I ſhall only add, that no Perſon can provide againſt them; and if we complain to the King, we cannot expect any Juſtice, much leſs Retribution: For tho' the King gives Order to have the Guilty ſearch'd after

and puniſh'd, yet no Perſon dare inform, for fear of the King's eldeſt Son, who commonly ſhares with, and conſequently protects theſe Villains.

And if we ſhould preſume to think, that when our Goods are in the Warehouſes, they are then in a ſafe Harbour, we ſhould find our ſelves groſly miſtaken. At firſt I was indeed of that Opinion, but having had ſtolen from me in one Night's time above the Value of Sixty Pounds *Sterling* in Goods, I changed my Opinion, believing that the only way to be free from their Thievery, was to leave them and their Country.

I then found the Locks of my Warehouſe entire, and had very ſafely kept the Key; ſo that at firſt I could not imagine which way the Thievery was committed; but afterwards I diſcover'd the Villany: I obſerv'd that in the Garret that was thatch'd with Reed, and Clay or Mud, to prevent firing, they had made a Hole, and aſſiſted by a Pole with a Hook at the end of it, had drawn out my Goods.

But they had made ſuch a large Hole in the *Frenchman*'s Warehouſe, that a Man might paſs through it. In ſhort, go how it will, they are ſure to ſteal ſomething: But having ſaid enough on this Subject, 'tis time to think of ſomething elſe; and before we ſpeak of their Government and Religion, we ſhall give ſome ſhort Hints on other Subjects.

The *Negroes* here are more richly cloath'd than thoſe of the *Gold Coaſt*, except in Gold and Silver, which they have not here, nor are they acquainted with its worth: They wear five or ſix Cloaths, all of different ſorts, one above the other; the uppermoſt of which is about eight or nine Yards long, which they wrap very decently about their Body. None are permitted to wear Red, except thoſe of the Royal Family only.

The Women alſo wear a Multitude of Cloaths or Panes, heaped one over another, each of which is not above a Yard and half quarter long, or Yard and half long; of which they buckle their two Ends on their Bellies.

Bellies: Theſe Cloaths very cloſely cover the Poſteriors, but fit very looſe before; inſomuch that if the Wind blows a little freſh, what Modeſty obliges to cover, is frequently expoſed.

The *Negroes* tell us that this Faſhion was the Womens Invention, and grounded on a Convenience which they found in it, as doubtleſs every Mode is ſome way or other uſeful.

It is odd enough to obſerve, that all Men, Women and Children, go with their Heads cloſe ſhorn by a Razor; and that without any Covering in Rain, Wind, the ſcorching Sun, or be the Weather how it will; and if it is certainly true, that going with the Head naked renders it very hard, I dare aver that the *Negroes* muſt be very hard-headed, ſince they are always bare in that Part: And hence it is, as well as from their Beards being cloſe ſhorn, that the old Men ſeem younger than they really are.

If the *Negroes* on the *Gold Coaſt*, when ſeized by Sickneſs, are very diligent in the uſe of Medicines, and numerous Offerings for the Recovery of their Health: The *Negroes* here exceed them, eſpecially in the laſt, which is the Employment of ſeveral whole Days.

The Medicinal Remedies are the ſame with thoſe on the *Gold Coaſt*, but the Offerings are very different: Here each Perſon reſerves a Place under the open Air, which is ſet apart for that purpoſe, and hedged about with Reeds and other Traſh. In this conſecrated Place they continually ſacrifice, in order to obtain Health and Proſperity.

They are ſo very fearful of Death, that they very unwillingly hear it mention'd, for fear that alone ſhould haſten their End. No *Negro* in the whole Country dare preſume to ſpeak of Death in preſence of the King or any Great Man, on Penalty of undergoing it as a Puniſhment himſelf.

The firſt Voyage I made hither, being upon my Departure, I aſked the King (who owed me about

One Hundred Pounds *Sterling*) Who ſhould pay me, in caſe of his Death, at my Return? All thoſe in the Preſence were perfectly amaz'd at this Queſtion; but the King, who underſtood a little *Portugueze*, taking me right, and finding that I was ignorant of their Cuſtoms, ſmilingly anſwered, *That I ought not to trouble my ſelf about that, for he ſhould not dye, but always live.* I ſoon perceiv'd that I had been guilty of ſome Solæciſm in their Manners: Wherefore I took my Leave, and retir'd to my Apartment; but withal, aſking the Captains which follow'd me the Reaſon of their Aſtoniſhment: They replied, *That no Perſon, on Pain of Death, dared preſume to ſpeak of Death it ſelf ſo publickly in the King's Preſence, much leſs talk of his own Dying.* I was then ſilent; but in my ſecond and third Voyage, growing more familiar with the King, and his before-mention'd Great Men, I have frequently ridicul'd their vain Fear of Death, and accuſtom'd them to it; ſo that in time they began to laugh at it themſelves, eſpecially the King (who is a very jolly Fellow) when I frighted any of his Captains with Death: But no *Negro* will venture to open his Lips on that Subject.

The *Negroes* live in a manner by gueſs, making no manner of Diſtinction of Times: They have no Feſtivals, nor Diviſions of Hours, Days, Weeks, Months or Years, but reckon their ſowing-time by Moon-ſhines; and very well know that every three Days there is a great Market-Day.

They are ſo accurately quick in their Merchandize-Accompts, that they eaſily reckon as juſtly and as quickly in their Heads alone, as we with the Aſſiſtance of Pen and Ink, tho' the Sum amounts to ſeveral Thouſands; which makes it very eaſy to Trade with them, and not half ſo troubleſome as to deal with other, and much duller *Negroes*.

I beg you would not be ſurpriz'd that I jumble my Matter confuſedly together; for not allowing my ſelf Time to digeſt it, ſo I deſire you would pleaſe to take

it

it in good part, let it fall how it will: But if you deſire what I write to be thrown into an accurate Method, after you have received it, you have it in your own Hands and Power; but for the preſent, I can give you no further Conſolation, than that the Glaſs is almoſt run out, and this Letter is very near its Concluſion.

Menſtruous Women are eſteemed ſo unclean, that they are not permitted Entrance into the King's, or other Great Mens Houſes, on leſs Penalty than Death, or perpetual Slavery.

The Circumciſion of Infants, eſpecially the Males, is here cuſtomary; but if they be aſked whence this Cuſtom was deduced, they readily anſwer, that it was traditionally handed to them by their Anceſtors, and they at preſent neither know the Reaſon nor Signification.

I have juſt hinted that the Male-Infants were circumciſed; in which you will perhaps think I am in the right, ſince that Cuſtom is ſcarce practicable in the other Sex: But I can aſſure you, Sir, that ſome Girls are here liable as well as the Boys. You, as a Phyſician, need make no farther Queſtion on that Head; and I refer the Ignorant to what Mr. *Arnold van Overbeek* ſaith concerning the *Hottentots* at the *Cape of Good Hope*.

The *Negroes* differ very much from each other in the Circumciſion of Children; ſome do it at four, five, or ſix, and others at eight or ten Years of Age.

Their Muſical Inſtruments are much better than thoſe on the *Gold Coaſt*, and they are alſo much modeſter in the uſe of them; for in time of Mourning they never teize you with the Noiſe of them.

They are very great Gameſters, and willingly ſtake all they are Maſters of in the World at play; and when Money and Goods are wanting, like the *Chineſe* they ſtake firſt Wife and Children, and then Land and Body.

Not to detain you any longer, I ſhall paſs by their Muſical as well as Gaming Inſtruments, and conclude this from him who at all Times, and in all Places, is, Sir, Yours, *&c.*

LET-

LETTER XIX.

Which briefly treats concerning the Government of Fida. *Capital Crimes very rare here. Puniſhment of Murther, and of violating one of the King's Wives. Other Crimes charged with pecuniary Mulcts only. The Oath of Purgation, in what manner adminiſtred. The Age of the King; his Temper, his Chamber of Audience, Domeſtick Office, Revenue, and Receivers thereof. What Portion accrues to the King by the Sale of a Slave. His Revenue which ariſes from Fiſh, and his Cuſtoms; how much on each Ship; concerning the Captains. The Riches of this Prince: At what Charges he is obliged to live, and his great Expences. No Perſon permitted to ſee the King eat, or know where he lodgeth, except his Wives. His Preſents to the* Europeans. *He is ador'd as a Demi-God. His Cloaths, and Children, and the Nature of the latter. How he came to the Throne. A barbarous Cuſtom on occaſion of the Death of their Kings. The King's Commands executed by his Wives. Whence a pleaſant Adventure is related. The Religion and Superſtition of the* Fidaſians. *Their Multitude of Idols; of which a* Negro *gave a very diverting Explication. Their Notion of the True God. Their principal Deities: Firſt of the Snake; to which great Offerings are made chiefly by the King. The Houſe of their chiefeſt God; where ſituate, of what largeneſs, and how found out. Offerings formerly ſent by the King to the Snake-Houſe; but at preſent aboliſh'd, and why. A large Account of the King's Revenue on account of the Snakes-Worſhip: Which Cheat, tho' known to be ſuch by the* Negroes, *yet for certain Reaſons, they dare not oppoſe it. He who injures the Snake, is condemned to the Flames. The tragical Fate of ſome* Engliſh *on that Account. Another which befel a Gold-Coaſt* Negro. *Multitudes of Snakes in the Dwelling-places of the* Europeans. *The Author paid for the imaginary Boarding of a Snake. Theſe Idolatrous Snakes do not injure Mankind. The* Negroes *cannot bear any Diſcourſe againſt the Snake. How they behave themſelves, if by chance they happen to kill one of them. A pleaſant Adventure between a Hog and a Snake, which coſt the Lives of ſome Hundreds of the former. The Trees are the Second-rate Gods of the Natives of* Fida. *The Sea their Third God. On what Occaſions the Two laſt are honour'd with Oraiſons and Sacrifices. Prieſts and Prieſteſſes in great Eſteem. The laſt called Gods Children. Their great Authority. What the* Fidaſians *think of Diabolical Spirits, and Hell; in which Belief they have been long ſince confirmed. Diſcourſe betwixt a* Fidaſian *Captain, and an* Auguſtin *Fryar.*

SIR,

SIR,

IN my laſt, dated ——— I divided my Deſcription of *Fida* into Three Parts; of the Firſt of which I therein treated at large; and the Second, namely, their Government and Religion, I ſhall diſpatch in this; but the Firſt Part of this Head affording nothing very particular, I ſhall not detain you long on it.

The Government, for ſo far as it relates to the Country, or the War, is veſted in the King and his principal Great Men; but in criminal Caſes the King aſſembles his Council, compoſed of certain Perſons, opens the Indictment to them, and requires each Perſon to declare his Sentiments what Puniſhment the Criminal deſerves. When the Verdict pleaſes him, Execution is accordingly done in purſuance to it; but if he diſlikes it, he obliges the Council to retire, and puniſheth the Malefactor according to his Royal Will and Pleaſure.

Here are very few capital Crimes, which are only Murthers, and committing Adultery with the King's or his Great Men's Wives; but the *Negroes*, as I have already hinted, being very fearful of Death, are the moſt careful People in the World how they incur that Penalty. Notwithſtanding which, from time to time, ſeveral venture ſo far as to deſerve that Puniſhment; of which I ſhall give you ſome Inſtances, that happen'd within theſe five or ſix Years.

The two firſt are of two Blacks, both executed for Murther in the ſame manner, *viz.* they were cut open alive, their Entrails taken out of their Bodies and burned; after which their Corps were filled with Salt, and fixed on a Stake in the middle of the Market-place, where I ſaw them in my firſt Voyage thither.

About four Years paſt, a *Negro*, who had been tardy with one of the King's Wives, being caught, was, together with the Female Accomplice of his Crime, brought to the Place of Execution in the open Field,

where

where he was ſet as a Mark for ſeveral Great Men by way of Diverſion, to ſhew their Skill in darting the *Aſſagays* at him; by which this poor Wretch was miſerably tormented. After this, in the Preſence of the offending Lady, he was bereft of his moſt criminal Member; and, after being obliged to throw it into the Fire himſelf, they were both put into a deep Pit, being firſt bound Hand and Foot: Then their Executioners ſet a Pot of boiling Water upon the Fire; out of which they by degrees laved ſome on the poor Criminals till it was half out, upon which they pour'd the Remainder on them all at once; and filling the Pit with Earth, buried them alive.

Two Years after this, a young Man was taken that had ſhut himſelf up in the King's Dwelling-place in Womens Habit, and enjoyed ſeveral of the King's Wives; but at laſt, fearing a Diſcovery, they reſolv'd to take their Flight; and not contented with having cuckolded the King, they deſign'd to make up a good Pack of the King's Goods, which might ſubſiſt them in another Country; but they were catch'd attempting the latter part of their Enterprize, tho' not all, but only the *Negro* and one Woman; and no Torture inflicted on the former was ſufficient to extort from him a Diſcovery of any more, ſo Sentence paſſed to burn him with the Woman.

The *Negro* ſeeing the King's Wives ſo very forward to bring Wood to burn him, could not forbear laughing; thereby hinting, that they were at preſent very diligent to furniſh Fuel for the Execution of him with whom they had paſſed many a Night very agreeably: This he not only expreſſed by his Laughter, but publickly ſaid; but would not accuſe any of the Guilty, for which Reaſon theſe two only were puniſh'd, who accompanied one another in Life and Death.

From what I have ſaid, you may obſerve, that the King knows very well how to find out thoſe who injure him; but in the Affair of doing Juſtice to others, he is ſomewhat deaf.

The

The remaining Crimes of the *Negroes* are moſtly compounded by a pecuniary Mulct; which the King, without calling his Captains to his Aſſiſtance, takes himſelf, except one of his Favourites, named Captain *Carter*, who is juſtly called the King's Soul; ſince without him he will not do any thing, tho' even of the leaſt Importance: This Perſon, in my Time, was, as we here call him, Captain *Blank*, or the Captain to whom the *European* Affairs were all entruſted.

If any Perſon here is accuſed of any Crime, and denies the Fact, he is obliged to clear himſelf by *Fetiche*'s, as on the *Gold Coaſt*; or otherwiſe (which is here very common) he is brought to a River, not far from the King's Court, to which is aſcribed the ſtrange Quality of immediately drowning all the guilty Perſons which are thrown into it; (contrary to the *European* manner of trying Witches) but the Innocent come clear out of it without any Damage; ſuppoſing withal, that they ſave themſelves by ſwimming: In which Art all of them being very expert, I never heard that this River ever yet convicted any Perſon; for they all come well out, paying a certain Sum to the King, for which End alone I believe this Trial is deſign'd.

The Viceroys, in their Goverments, generally follow the ſame Rule, and condemn the Malefactors to pay a certain Sum for their Uſe.

Having little more to ſay concerning their Government, I ſhall now apply my ſelf to the King's Houſhold and State.

The preſent King is aged ſome Years above Fifty, but as vigorous and as ſpritely as a Man of Five and thirty: He is the moſt civil and generous *Negro* that I have obſerv'd among the Black Kind, and is never better pleas'd than when we deſire a Favour of him. It would be very eaſy to obtain whatever we aſked of him, if a Parcel of raſcally Flatterers did not continually buz Leſſons of good Huſbandry in his Ears, not really out of Kindneſs to him, but only in order to draw to themſelves what by their frugal Advice they

prevent

prevent his beſtowing on others: And I have obſerv'd, that he daily more and more hearkens to theſe ſort of People; for inſtead of being kind to us, he is now ſo obſtinate and humourſome in his Trading with us, that we ſcarce know how to deal with him: For, as at firſt he left it to us what to offer, now, on the contrary, he will have every thing in his own way; he will have the choiceſt and vendible Part of our Merchandizes in exchange for his Slaves, which falls very heavy on the Merchant; for beſides that he is obliged to give him one third, fourth or fifth at leaſt extraordinary for every Slave; the beſt Goods being diſpoſed of, the Remainder are not to be put off but to diſadvantage: Whereas if the King would be a little reaſonable, as he was the firſt and ſecond time I was there, we could eaſily diſpoſe of the whole Cargo.

This King's Train is ſo very mean, that it is ſcarce worth mentioning, he being attended by none but his Wives only.

Once, or at moſt, twice every Year, he goes abroad, when he appears in a ſort of ſplendid Retinue, more eſpecially accompanied with his Wives, who amount to above One Thouſand; each of which is dreſs'd in the richeſt and moſt ſplendid Manner. At this Time, all his moſt beautiful Wives, who are always cloſely enough ſhut up, may be ſeen; and with them a rich Treaſure of Coral, which is worth even more than Gold.

In this Progreſs he is not accompanied with ſo much as one Man; but he beforehand advertiſes all his Great Men where he intends to divert himſelf, whither they go to wait for him, ſtill taking care they keep far enough off of his Wives, as being allowed no greater Favour than to ſee them as they paſs by.

The remaining part of the Year the King remains in his Houſe, indulging himſelf in no other Diverſions than what his Wives afford him, except when he goes to the Place of Audience, in order to be inform'd

by his Captains if any thing hath happen'd, or to impart his Commands to them.

Which being done, he goes to the Place of Audience appointed for the *Europeans*, to diſcourſe with them concerning Commerce. Where, when he and I had no other Buſineſs, I have ſpent many Days in one ſort of Game or other (to all which, according to the Genius of that Nation, he is ſtrangely addicted) we playing for an Ox, Hog, Sheep, *&c.* but never for Goods or Money; and I had always that Advantage of him, that if I won, he immediately ſent home my Winnings; but on the contrary, if I loſt, he did not deſire to receive my Loſings.

In this Place of Audience, there are two Foot-Benches, one broad, cover'd with a Cloth, and provided with an Oval Stool, according to the Cuſtom of the Country: This is for the King, and the other cover'd with Mats for the *Europeans* to ſit next the King, and converſe with him, always bare-headed; not that they are order'd to do ſo, but becauſe they always find that he is pleaſed therewith.

Whenever we enter this Place of Audience, we are deſired to lay by our Swords, becauſe the King doth not like that any ſhould appear armed before him.

It is diverting enough to ſpend a whole Day with the King here; for beſides that he is very good Company, he is continually entertaining you with the beſt that he has to eat and drink.

No Perſon is ſuffer'd to drink out of the ſame Glaſs or Cup with the King, but he hath always one kept particularly for himſelf; and that which hath but once touched another Man's Lips, he never uſes more, tho' it be made of Metal that may be cleanſed by Fire.

When any of the *Europeans* eat in his Preſence (which he is very fond of) the Table is indifferently regularly furniſh'd and ſerved. All his Great Men or Nobles lye proſtrate on the Earth around as long as he is preſent, without daring to riſe. And what the *Europeans* leave at their Table is beſtow'd upon them,

which

which they very greedily eat, whether they like it or no; and tho' they have ten times better at home, and were it not to affront the King's Diet, would not touch it.

The Poſts or Offices which this King beſtows are of three ſorts: Firſt, the Viceroys, here called *Phidalgoes* or Governadors, which compoſe the firſt State of the Kingdoms; theſe, in the King's Abſence and in their Viceroyalties, command as Arbitrarily, and keep up as great State as the King himſelf.

The Second are his Chief Captains, here called Grand Captains, tho' moſt of them are withal Viceroys of ſome Country or other.

The Third are the Commom Captains, of which there are a great Number; and each of theſe hath a particular Character: He to whom the Care of the Market is entruſted, is Captain of the Market; by the ſame Rule another is Captain of the Slaves, a Third of the *Tronks* or Priſons, another of the Shore. In ſhort, for every Affair that can be thought of, the King hath appointed a Captain Overſeer.

Beſides which, there are a great Number of Honorary Captains, without any Offices; for each of all which Poſts in proportion every Perſon is obliged to pay the King a good Sum of Money, tho' he hath always the Honour of beſtowing it only out of his eſpecial Favour.

This King's Revenue, in proportion to his Country, is very large; of which, I believe, he hath above One Thouſand Collectors, who diſperſe themſelves throughout the whole Land, in all Market-Roads and Paſſages, in order to gather the King's Toll, which amounts to an incredible Sum; for there is nothing ſo mean in the whole Kingdom, that the King hath not Toll for it; which, indeed, if all honeſtly paid to him, would make him very rich; but the Gentlemen Collectors ſo largely fleece it, that the King ſcarce receives one fourth Part of the whole.

There

There are three principal Collectors appointed over the Slave-Trade; each of which is to receive a Rix-dollar for the King's Toll, for every Slave that is traded for: But theſe Gentlemen, like the reſt, agree underhand with thoſe who ſell the Slaves; ſo that the King receives nothing of it: But with reſpect to the Slaves which are ſold for *Boeſies* (the Money of this Country) ſomewhat better Care is taken, for the Sum contracted for is paid in the King's Preſence, out of which he receives three Rixdollars for every Slave. Notwithſtanding which Care, tho' he is the leaſt cheated, yet ſome of his Subjects are ſo ſly as to fetch their Money for their Slaves by Night, or at unſeaſonable Times, and conſequently cheat him; and on account that we have continual occaſion to make uſe of them, we cannot deny them their Money whenever they demand it.

The exact half of all the Fines and Tolls in his Viceroyalties accrues to him; but I believe he would be very well ſatisfy'd if he could but get one Fourth.

There are two very fine large Rivers at *Fida*, one of which runs by the Two *Popo's*, the other by *Jakin*: They are ſo plentifully ſtored with Fiſh, that the King's Toll out of each of them is worth one hundred Slaves, which yet is not above half what the Collectors receive.

To the foregoing Revenues of the King, may be added, that from each Ship which comes here to Trade, reckoning one with another, either by Toll, his own Trade or Cuſtom, which comes to about Four hundred Pounds *Sterling*; and ſometimes fifty Ships come hither in a Year, tho' at other times not above half ſo many. In ſhort, if the King were not cheated, he would have a vaſt Income, and be a potent Prince, conſider'd as one of this Country-Kings; but, compar'd with the Oriental or other Kings, he makes indeed but a wretched Figure. But it goes here, as all the World over, each Officer ſteals no more than he can, and the Offices ſeem only to turn to the Advantage of

the Poſſeſſors, without the Giver's being much the better for them.

But how great ſoever the King's Revenue may be, he hath occaſion enough for it; for beſides the large Sums which he daily furniſhes for the Deſtruction of *Popo*, and to ſubject *Offra*;

Beſides theſe, I ſay, and the neceſſary Expences of his Houſhold, together with the rich Offerings he is obliged to make to his Idol-Gods, he is daily obliged to keep Four Thouſand Men, and to provide them with Meat and Drink; and, tho' he doth not eſteem his Subjects more than his Slaves, yet when he employs them, he is obliged to pay them dear enough.

His principal Great Men eat with him daily, or at leaſt in his Preſence, for no Man is permitted to ſee him eat, nor any Woman beſides his Wives; which ſeems to me formerly deſign'd to create an Imagination in the Subjects, that their Kings were ſomewhat more than Men, and were to be reſpected and adored as gods; and that they did not, like other Men, want the common Supplies of Eating and Drinking, tho' the King doth the laſt before every Body.

For the former Reaſon, and one more which I ſhall mention, no Perſon is permitted to know the King's Lodging-place. I once very innocently aſked his greateſt Minion, *Carter*, where the King lay at Night? But he anſwer'd this Queſtion with another, which was, Where doth God lodge? Juſt as much, is it poſſible for us to know the King's Bed-Chamber.

This I am apt to think is done to preſerve a deep Reſpect amongſt the People; and that upon a ſudden Onſet of the Enemies, they ſhould not immediately find the King, but that he may get Time enough to ſave himſelf by Flight.

Beſides the above-mention'd Expences, the King's Charge is very much augmented by his continual Preſents to the *Europeans*; which, if he likes them, and they receive them thankfully, are conſiderable.

Their

Their Tables are daily furniſh'd by him with Sheep, Hogs, Fowl, Beef, or what elſe can be gotten, together with Bread, Fruit, Beer, and what thereto appertains; and all this in larger Quantities than their People really want.

The *Hollanders* were in my Time extraordinary well treated here, for the King provided them better than all other Nations, and frequently ſent them a double Portion; but ſince the Captains of Ships have managed Trade here, I am informed our Nation is treated by the King with very ſmall Diſtinction; for which theſe Maſters of Ships are ſolely to blame; for they being utterly ignorant of the Manners of the People, don't know how to treat with that Decency which they require; and the Natives here being very judicious, have, doubtleſs, leſſen'd their former Eſteem for them: Upon which Ground I dare prophetically aver, that they will certainly ruin the Slave-Trade here, and ſo manage it, that every Body ſhall be obliged to pay dearer for Slaves than uſually. But having touch'd on this Subject in the Seventh Letter, I ſhall quit it at preſent; as alſo that I may not anger the Sailors, who fancy they underſtand the Slave-Trade as well as we our ſelves: But ſince I have ſo often mention'd that Commerce, I ſhall deſcribe how it is managed by our Factors here.

The firſt Buſineſs of one of our Factors when he comes to *Fida*, is to ſatisfy the Cuſtoms of the King and the Great Men, which amount to about a Hundred Pounds in *Guinea* Value, as the Goods muſt yield there. After which we have free Licenſe to Trade, which is publiſh'd throughout the whole Land by the Cryer.

But yet before we can deal with any Perſon, we are obliged to buy the King's whole Stock of Slaves at a ſet Price, which is commonly one third or one fourth higher than ordinary; after which, we obtain free

Leave to deal with all his Subjects, of what Rank ſoever. But if there happen to be no Stock of Slaves, the Factor muſt then reſolve to run the Riſque of truſting the Inhabitants with Goods to the Value of one or two hundred Slaves; which Commodities they ſend into the Inland Country, in order to buy with them Slaves at all Markets, and that ſometimes two hundred Miles deep in the Country: For you ought to be informed, that Markets of Men are here kept in the ſame manner as thoſe of Beaſts with us.

Not a few in our Country fondly imagine that Parents here ſell their Children, Men their Wives, and one Brother the other: But thoſe who think ſo, deceive themſelves; for this never happens on any other Account but that of Neceſſity, or ſome great Crime; but moſt of the Slaves that are offered to us, are Priſoners of War, which are ſold by the Victors as their Booty.

When theſe Slaves come to *Fida*, they are put in Priſon all together; and when we treat concerning buying them, they are all brought out together in a large Plain; where, by our Surgeons, whoſe Province it is, they are throughly examin'd, even to the ſmalleſt Member, and that naked too both Men and Women, without the leaſt Diſtinction or Modeſty. Thoſe which are approved as good, are ſet on one ſide; and the lame or faulty are ſet by as *Invalids*, which are here called *Mackrons*: Theſe are ſuch as are above Five and thirty Years old, or are maimed in the Arms, Legs, Hands or Feet; have loſt a Tooth, are Grey-hair'd, or have Films over their Eyes; as well as all thoſe which are affected with any Venereal Diſtemper, or ſeveral other Diſeaſes.

The *Invalids* and the Maimed being thrown out, as I have told you, the Remainder are number'd, and it is enter'd who deliver'd them. In the mean while, a burning Iron, with the Arms or Name of the Companies, lyes in the Fire, with which ours are mark'd on the Breaſt.

This

This is done that we may diſtinguiſh them from the Slaves of the *Engliſh*, *French*, or others; (which are alſo mark'd with their Mark) and to prevent the *Negroes* exchanging them for worſe, at which they have a good Hand.

I doubt not but this Trade ſeems very barbarous to you, but ſince it is follow'd by meer Neceſſity, it muſt go on; but we yet take all poſſible Care that they are not burned too hard, eſpecially the Women, who are more tender than the Men.

We are ſeldom long detained in the buying of theſe Slaves, becauſe their Price is eſtabliſh'd, the Women being one fourth or fifth Part cheaper than the Men. The Diſputes which we generally have with the Owners of theſe Slaves are, that we will not give them ſuch Goods as they aſk for them, eſpecially the *Boeſies* (as I have told you, the Money of this Country) of which they are very fond, tho' we generally make a Diviſion on this Head, in order to make one ſort of Goods help off another; becauſe thoſe Slaves which are paid for in *Boeſies*, coſt the Company one half more than thoſe bought with other Goods. The Price of a Slave is commonly ———

When we have agreed with the Owners of the Slaves, they are returned to their Priſon; where, from that Time forwards, they are kept at our Charge, coſt us Two Pence a Day a Slave; which ſerves to ſubſiſt them, like our Criminals, on Bread and Water: So that to ſave Charges, we ſend them on Board our Ships with the very firſt Opportunity, before which their Maſters ſtrip them of all they have on their Backs; ſo that they come aboard ſtark-naked, as well Women as Men: In which Condition they are obliged to continue, if the Maſter of the Ship is not ſo charitable (which he commonly is) as to beſtow ſomething on them to cover their Nakedneſs.

You would really wonder to ſee how theſe Slaves live on Board; for tho' their Number ſometimes amounts to ſix or ſeven Hundred, yet by the careful

Management of our Maſters of Ships, they are ſo regulated, that it ſeems incredible: And in this Particular our Nation exceeds all other *Europeans*; for as the *Fuench*, *Portugueze*, and *Engliſh* Slave-Ships are always foul and ſtinking; on the contrary, ours are for the moſt part clean and neat.

The Slaves are fed three times a-Day with indifferent good Victuals, and much better than they eat in their own Country: Their Lodging-place is divided into two Parts; one of which is appointed for the Men, the other for the Women, each Sex being kept apart: Here they lye as cloſe together as it is poſſible for them to be crowded.

We are ſometimes ſufficiently plagued with a Parcel of Slaves which come from a far Inland Country, who very innocently perſuade one another, that we buy them only to fatten, and afterwards eat them as a Delicacy.

When we are ſo unhappy as to be peſter'd with many of this ſort, they reſolve and agree together (and bring over the reſt to their Party) to run away from the Ship, kill the *Europeans*, and ſet the Veſſel aſhore; by which means they deſign to free themſelves from being our Food.

I have twice met with this Misfortune; and the firſt Time proved very unlucky to me, I not in the leaſt ſuſpecting it; but the Uproar was timely quaſh'd by the Maſter of the Ship and my ſelf, by cauſing the Abettor to be ſhot through the Head, after which all was quiet.

But the ſecond Time it fell heavier on another Ship, and that chiefly by the Careleſneſs of the Maſter, who having fiſhed up the Anchor of a departed *Engliſh* Ship, had laid it in the Hold where the Male Slaves were lodged; who, unknown to any of the Ship's Crew, poſſeſſed themſelves of a Hammer; with which, in a ſhort time, they broke all their Fetters in pieces upon the Anchor: After this, they came above Deck, and fell upon our Men; ſome of whom they grievouſly wounded, and would certainly have maſter'd the Ship,

if

if a *French* and *Engliſh* Ship had not very fortunately happen'd to lye by us; who perceiving by our firing a Diſtreſs'd-Gun, that ſomething was in Diſorder on Board, immediately came to our Aſſiſtance with Chalops and Men, and drove the Slaves under Deck: Notwithſtanding which, before all was appeas'd, about twenty of them were kill'd.

The *Portugueze* have been more unlucky in this Particular than we; for in four Years time they loſt four Ships in this manner.

Thus believing I have ſufficiently digreſſed concerning the Slave-Trade, I ſhall return to my Subject, which was the King of *Fida*.

Who, I am obliged to tell you, is fear'd and reverenc'd by his Subjects as a Demi-God. None of his Subjects, of what Degree ſoever, as you have been already told, appear in his Preſence otherwiſe than kneeling or proſtrate on his Belly: When they go to ſalute him in the Morning, they proſtrate themſelves before the Door of his Houſe, kiſs the Earth three times ſucceſſively, and clapping their Hands, whiſper ſome Words tending to the Adoration of the King. This done, they crawl on all Four, where they repeat the ſame Reverence.

His Preſence is ſo awful to them, that with a ſingle Word he makes them to tremble; but as ſoon as his Back is turn'd, they immediately forget their Fear, not much regarding his Commands, and always knowing how to appeaſe and delude him with a Lye or two.

The King is very magnificently cloath'd in Silk, or Gold and Silver Stuffs; but he is more eſpecially dreſſed better than ordinary when he goes to viſit any of the *Europeans*; which he can eaſily do unſeen of any, all their Dwellings being built round his Court, if it may be ſo called.

Our Lodging here, which the King cauſed to be built for me, is very large, containing three Warehouſes and ſeven Chambers, beſides a beautiful Court within, adorn'd on each ſide with a cover'd Gallery: But the

Lodgings of the reſt of the *Europeans* are very mean and inconvenient.

The King's Children, beſides the ſmall ones yet kept within Doors, are four, *viz.* three Sons and one Daughter.

All which are very handſome eſpecially the eldeſt, who is the moſt beautiful *Negro* I ever yet ſaw in my Life; but it is pity ſo agreeable a Body ſhould be inhabited by ſuch a villanous Soul. Purſuant to his Birthright, he is Heir apparent to the Crown, but he is of ſuch a fraudulent and perverſe Nature, that it is to be hoped he will not ſucceed; but if he doth, the Land will ſuffer very much.

He hath his Emiſſaries in all Quarters to ſteal from the *Europeans* as well as Blacks; and what is yet more, he doth not excuſe even the King his Father.

He is exactly of the ſame Nature with the Owls, which take their Flight only by Night; for he never goes out of his Houſe till the Evening, when I have ſeveral times had the Honour to be viſited by him.

One Reaſon why he doth not go abroad in the Day-time, is owing to his haughty Temper, which will not allow him to ſhew himſelf to the Commonalty; and the other is, ſeveral times, to avoid the Neceſſity of appearing in his Father's Preſence.

The King's ſecond Son is very like his Father; to whom he is not inferior in all manner of Civility: Wherefore the Great Men make their Court to him; and for this Reaſon, I doubt not but after the King's Deceaſe, this Realm will be engag'd in a Civil War; for the greateſt Number will endeavour to place the youngeſt Son on the Throne, which the eldeſt, aſſiſted by Foreign Domeſtick Force, will as vigorouſly oppoſe: And if at that Time the *Europeans* happen to be able, they will act very prudently in eſpouſing the Party of the younger Brother, as they did in the Caſe of the preſent King; who, tho' the younger Brother, yet by reaſon of his natural Goodneſs, was fix'd by Force on the Throne by the *Dutch*, *French* and *Portuguese*,

tugueze, his elder Brother being by their means driven out and baniſh'd the Country; which is the principal Reaſon that he at preſent is ſo ſenſibly inclined to favour the *Europeans*.

I cannot here omit the pernicious Cuſtom of this Nation on occaſion of the King's Death; which is no ſooner publickly known, than every Perſon falls a ſtealing to as great a Value of his Neighbour's Goods as he can poſſibly come at, and that openly in the Face of the whole World, without being liable to any Puniſhment; as tho' the Death of the King put an end to all manner of Reaſon and Juſtice.

This Robbery is continued till a new King is confirmed on the Throne; who by publick Proclamation forbids it, and he is immediately therein ſtrictly obeyed.

And if the Chief Commanders cannot agree in the Eſtabliſhment of a new King, they, notwithſtanding, to prevent the Continuance of this Diſorder, tell the People that they have choſen a new King, and in his Name publiſh the before-mention'd Proclamation.

The chuſing or confirming of a new King ſeldom continues long in diſpute; for the eldeſt Son no ſooner hears of the King's Death, than he immediately makes his Intereſt amongſt his Friends, to take Poſſeſſion of the late King's Court and Wives; and ſucceeding happily in theſe Particulars, he need not doubt the Remainder; for the Commonalty will not eaſily conſent that after that he ſhall be driven from the Throne: This ſeems ſomewhat like *Abſalom*'s Deſign on his Father *David*.

To accompliſh this Deſign, the younger Brothers Party are always careful enough that he is near at Hand, in order to take Poſſeſſion of the Court.

You cannot but remember that I have inform'd you of the Multiplicity of the King's Wives, who are ſometimes made uſe of by him as Executioners of the Sentences he pronounces againſt Offenders: Which is only done by ſending three or four hundred of them

to the Habitation of the Malefactor, to ſtrip his Houſe, and lay it level with the Ground; for all Perſons being forbidden on pain of Death to touch the King's Wives, they are enabled to execute his Commands without the leaſt Interruption.

Juſt before my Arrival at *Fida*, there happen'd ſomewhat ſo pleaſant, that I cannot help imparting it to you. A *Negro* of my Acquaintance, and who in proceſs of Time did me very conſiderable Services, being beforehand advertis'd that he was accuſed of a certain Crime to the King, and that Orders were iſſued out accordingly to plunder and demoliſh his Houſe; his Time being too ſhort to clear himſelf before the King, and being innocent, he reſolv'd inſtead of flying from his Houſe, according to Cuſtom, to remain at home, and expect the King's Wives, who ſoon after came, and, contrary to their Expectation, found him at home; upon which they commanded him immediately to retire, and not interrupt the Execution of their Orders: But inſtead of obeying them, he had placed a Heap of 2000 Weight of Gunpowder juſt by him; with which he, with terrible Imprecations, threaten'd to fire and blow up himſelf with them in the Air, if they came nearer him. They were ſo far from liking this, that, diſmally affrighted at his Threats, they made their beſt of their way back to the King, to acquaint him with their ill Succeſs: But they were not ſo expeditious, but that the *Negro* was too quick for them; and ſo handſomly acquitted himſelf to the King, and brought ſuch clear Proofs of his Innocence, that his Sovereign declar'd him innocent; and thus by a dextrous Management and Preſence of Mind, he freed himſelf from imminent Danger.

But enough on this Subject, which I might eaſily have paſſed over in Silence: It is now time to come to my promiſed Subject, the Religion of the *Fidaſians*.

I have already inform'd you, that the greateſt Crimes committed at *Fida* are generally compenſated by

by Money; and what followeth, will convince you, that their Religion ſeems only founded on the ſame Principle, *Intereſt.*

Their Religion is ſuperſtitious to a greater degree than any I ever yet heard of in the World: For allowing the ancient Heathens to value themſelves on Thirty thouſand Deities, I dare yet aver, that thoſe of *Fida* may juſtly lay Claim to Four times that Number.

I once aſked a *Negro*, with whom I could talk very freely, and whom I had alſo a good Opinion of (being the ſame who had the Adventure with the King's Wives, already related:) I aſked him, I ſay, how they celebrated their Divine Worſhip, and what Number of gods they had? He laughing, anſwer'd, that I had puzzled him; and aſſured me, that no Body in the whole Country could give me an exact Account of it: For, as for my own part (continues he) I have a very large Number of gods, and doubt not but others have as many. And I telling him, that only Three gods were owned to me by the Inhabitants, and deſiring him withal, to give me ſome Account of the reſt, he obliged me with the following Anſwer, That the Number of their gods was endleſs and innumerable: For (ſaid he) any of us being reſolv'd to undertake any thing of Importance, we firſt of all ſearch out a god to proſper our deſign'd Undertaking; and going out of Doors with this Deſign, take the firſt Creature that preſents it ſelf to our Eyes, whether Dog, Cat, or the moſt contemptible Animal in the World, for our god; or perhaps inſtead of that, any Inanimate that falls in our way, whether a Stone, a piece of Wood, or any thing of the ſame Nature. This new choſen god is immediately preſented with an Offering, which is accompanied with a ſolemn Vow, That if he pleaſeth to proſper our Undertakings, for the future we will always worſhip and eſteem him as a god. If our Deſign prove ſucceſsful, we have diſcover'd a new and aſſiſting god, which is daily preſented with freſh Offerings; but if the contrary happen, the new god is reject-

rejected as an uſeleſs Tool, and conſequently returns to his primitive Eſtate: He went on in theſe following Words, We make and break our gods daily, and conſequentially are the Maſters and Inventors of what we ſacrifice to.

This Divine Service is not new in the World, nor were the firſt Men Strangers to it: But how theſe Notions reached *Fida*, is what I dare not preſume to determine. So far the *Negro*.

I was very well pleas'd to hear this *Negro* talk in this manner concerning his Country-gods; but having converſed with him for ſome time, I obſerv'd that he ridicul'd his own Country-gods; for having in his Youth lived amongſt the *French*, whoſe Language he perfectly underſtood, and ſpake, he had amongſt them imbib'd the Principles of the Chriſtian Religion, and ſomewhat towards a juſt Notion of the True God, and how he is to be worſhipped; to whom, and not to his Country-gods, he aſcribed the Creation of all Things: Wherefore he no farther concern'd himſelf with the gods of his Country, than as engaged to it for Quietneſs-ſake, or to make his Friends eaſy; to whom he durſt not reveal his Opinion, fearing (what would certainly have happen'd) the falling into ſome dangerous Circumſtances; for as ſtrong as his Faith was, it was not arrived to that Pitch as to oblige him to ſuffer loſs of Goods on that account: So that we may juſtly cry out, *O! how weak was his Faith!*

It is certain that his Countrymen have a faint Idea of the true God, and aſcribe to him the Attributes of Almighty and Omnipreſent; they believe he created the Univerſe, and therefore vaſtly prefer him before their Idol-gods; but yet they do not pray to him, or offer any Sacrifices to him; for which they give the following Reaſons. God, ſay they, is too high exalted above us, and too great to condeſcend ſo much as to trouble himſelf, or think of Mankind: Wherefore he commits the Government of the World to their Idols; to whom, as the ſecond, third and fourth Perſons diſtant

diſtant in degree from God, and our appointed lawful Governors, we are obliged to apply our ſelves: And in firm Belief of this Opinion they quietly continue.

Their principal gods, which are owned for ſuch throughout the whole Country, are of Three ſorts. Firſt, a certain ſort of Snakes, who poſſeſs the chief Rank amongſt their gods. How would our Countryman *Becker*, Author of *the World Bewitched*, divert himſelf with the contrary Opinions of the Sons of *Adam*? For as we take the Serpent for the fatal Deſtroyer of Human Race; ſo theſe of *Fida*, on the contrary, eſteem him their ſupreme Bliſs and greateſt Good: But this by way of Parentheſis only.

Their Second-rate gods are ſome lofty high Trees, in the Formation of which Dame Nature ſeems to have expreſs'd her greateſt Art.

The Third, and meaneſt God, or younger Brother to the other, is the Sea. Theſe Three mention'd, are the publick Deities which are worſhipped and prayed to throughout the whole Country; and each of theſe, according to their ridiculous Perſuaſion, hath its particular Province, like the Officers of a King or Prince; with this Difference only, that the Sea and Trees are not permitted to intermeddle with what is entruſted to the Snake; which, on the contrary, hath an influencing Power over both the other, in order to correct them when they prove idle or lazy.

They invoke the Snake in exceſſive wet, dry, or barren Seaſons; on all Occaſions relating to their Government, and the Preſervation of their Cattle; or rather, in one Word, in all Neceſſities and Difficulties, in which they do not apply to their new Batch of gods.

And for this reaſon very great Offerings are made to it, eſpecially from the King, who on ſeveral Occaſions, by Inſtigation of the Prieſts, and the Great Men, his Creatures, and the Prieſts Tools, ſends very rich Offerings to the Snake-Houſe: But I am of Opinion, that theſe roguiſh Prieſts ſweep all the mention'd Offer-

Offerings to themſelves, and doubtleſs make themſelves very merry with them.

Theſe Offerings are commonly compriz'd of Money, ſome Pieces of Silk or Stuff; all ſorts of *European* and *African* Commodities; all ſorts of Cattle, and good Eatables and Drinks: All which are ſo frequently exacted from the King, that he ſometimes grows tired, and refuſeth them.

This I had once an Opportunity of obſerving; for, finding him very much enrag'd, I made no Scruple to aſk him, *What had ſo much diſpleas'd him?* He very freely told me, That *that Year he had ſent much larger Offerings to the Snake-Houſe than uſual, in order to obtain a good Crop; and that one of his Viceroys* (whom he ſhewed me) *had deſired him afreſh in the Name of the Prieſts, who threatned a barren Year, to ſend yet more:* To which he anſwer'd, *That he did not intend to make any farther Offerings this Year; and if the Snake would not beſtow a plentiful Harveſt on them, he might let it alone: For* (ſaid he) *I cannot be more damaged thereby, the greateſt Part of my Corn being already rotten in the Field.*

I ſmiling, obſerv'd, that the King would have added another Preſent, if he could have hoped for any Advantage by it; but to make Offerings barely for another's Intereſt, he was not very fond of; wherefore the Petitioner was obliged to depart without obtaining his End, which went down but indifferently with him and the Prieſts, who had promiſed themſelves another ſort of Succeſs.

The Snake-Houſe, which I have ſo frequently mention'd, is ſituated about two Miles from the King's Village, and built under a very beautiful lofty Tree, *In which* (ſay they) *the chief and largeſt of all the Snakes reſides:* He is a ſort of Grandfather to all the reſt; is repreſented as thick as a Man, and of an unmeaſurable Length.

He muſt alſo be very old, for they report that they found him a great Number of Years paſt; when, by reaſon

reaſon of the Wickedneſs of the Men, he left another Country to come to them; at which being overjoy'd, they welcom'd their new-come god with all expreſſible Signs of Reverence and high Veneration, and carried him upon a ſilken Carpet to the Snake-Houſe, where he is at preſent.

This roguiſh Snake probably had the ſame Freaks in his Tail, which the old Heathen gods were affected with when they run away from one Country to another; wherefore they were ſometimes obliged to bind their godhead faſt, of which thoſe poor Wretches who loſt the Snake were not aware, otherwiſe they might have ſtopped his Journey. But wherefore do I ſpend my Time in making Reflections, ſince I have more important Subjects to handle!

The Kings of *Fida* were formerly accuſtom'd to annual Pilgrimages to the Snake-Houſe, which was celebrated with great Magnificence, and concluded with yet greater Preſents; for the King not only made very rich Offerings, but alſo beſtow'd very large Preſents on the Great Men that accompanied him; ſo that this Pilgrimage commonly coſt him ſeveral Thouſands.

But the preſent King hath broke off this Cuſtom, which is accordingly grown in diſuſe for ſeveral Years paſt. In his laſt Tour which he made to the Snake-Houſe, he was (as I am inform'd) accompanied by Monſieur *Ducas*, a *French* Captain, who was ridiculous enough, to the Scandal of all *Europeans*, to dreſs himſelf in Tygers Skins, and other ſort of Trifles, and lead the King in this Equipage to the Snake-Houſe. If this Action is true of him, it is worſe than that of *Naaman* the *Syrian*, who, hardly converted, aſked Leave to ſupport his Maſter in the Houſe of *Rimmon*: But this is a Digreſſion very wide from our purpoſe.

The King then, as I have told you, doth not make this Pilgrimage in Perſon, but orders it to be done by ſome of his Wives, which does not prove near ſo expenſive; and this I believe is the only Reaſon why he leaves it off.

But as the Snake-Service proves very expenſive to the King, ſo the Revenue which he draws from thence is not inconſiderable. Annually, from the Time when the *Mais* or ſmall *Milhio* is ſowed, till it grows up to Man's height, the King and Prieſt's Plow turns to a very great Account to them; for the People here which don't ſee much farther than their Noſes, imagine that during this whole Seaſon, the Snake or Snakes make it their Buſineſs every Evening and Night to ſeize all the beautiful young Women which pleaſe them, and to make them diſtracted; wherefore their Parents or Relations are neceſſitated to cauſe theſe Girls to be brought to a particular Houſe built for that purpoſe, where they are obliged to ſtay ſeveral Months, as it is given out, to cure them of their Madneſs; during which Time, the Relations are obliged to furniſh them with all manner of Neceſſaries, and that ſo plentifully, that the Prieſts can alſo handſomly ſubſiſt on it.

The appointed Time of their Confinement being over, and being cured of the Diſtemper with which they never were afflicted, they obtain Leave to come out; before which, they muſt pay the Charge of their Cure and Keeping, which is adjuſted in proportion to the Circumſtances of their Relations; and one Girl with another, amounts to about Five Pounds: And the Number of young Girls thus impriſon'd, riſes to ſeveral Thouſands, each conſiderable Village having a particular Houſe appointed for that purpoſe; and ſome which are large, being provided with two or three.

All the Money which this Trade raiſeth, is commonly thought and believ'd to be for the Prieſts, in order to be made uſe of in their Divine Service: And tho' I doubt not but the Prieſts have their Share, I am yet certain, that the King is ſo far from ſuffering by it, that he draws conſiderable Sums from this Cuſtom.

The firſt Time that I came to *Fida* to Trade, I was aſſur'd that as ſoon as a Girl was touch'd by the Snake, ſhe unavoidably run mad; tho' it was but a ſort of holy

holy or religious Madneſs, ſuch as hath formerly been related of the *Bacchantes*, or thoſe from whoſe Mouths the Divine Oracles proceeded. Yet I don't like theſe pious Funs, for the Perſons pretended to be affected with it, break and ſpoil every thing which comes in their way; and inſtead of Religious, are guilty of all manner of Diabolical Actions, which they never leave off till they are brought to the before-mention'd Place.

At firſt the People here ſtrenuouſly endeavour'd to perſuade me, that a Snake was able to fetch a Girl out of the Houſe, and carry her off, tho' the ſaid Houſe was cloſe ſhut up; which I eaſily agreed to, provided the Girl was but ſtored with proper Inſtruments to open the Locks.

I would not reſt till I had examin'd how this Cheat is manag'd; notwithſtanding which, I ſhould never have diſcover'd it, if the before-mention'd *Negro* had not aſſiſted me, and oblig'd me with the following Account of it, *viz.* That the Prieſts diligently obſerve thoſe young Maids or Women alſo which have never been affected by the Snake: Theſe they firſt attempt by Promiſes, or if they are not ſucceſsful, oblige by Threats to perform what they require of them; which is, that being in the Street, and ſeeing the Coaſt clear of People on all ſides, they ſet on crying and raving with all their Strength, as tho' the Snake had fait hold of them, and commanded them to go to the Snake Houſe.

Before any Perſon can come to their Help, the Snake is vaniſh'd, and the Girl is mad, which neceſſitates her Relations to follow the Snake's Orders.

When theſe Females come out of their mad Priſon, the Prieſt lays his moſt rigid Commands on them, not to diſcover how they were ſeiz'd by the Snake, but to ſtick faſt to the Story that the Snake did it. And in order to clench theſe ſevere Prohibitions, and render them the more effectual, thoſe who reveal thoſe Secrets of the Sacerdotal Empire, are threaten'd

to be immediately burn'd alive: And, indeed, the Prieſts are cruel and potent enough to make good their Threats, if they could find any Women guilty.

This *Negro* related a pleaſant Adventure concerning this Confinement, which happen'd betwixt him and one of his Wives; who, by the Inſtigation of the Prieſt, one Evening feigned her ſelf diſtracted, breaking (according to Cuſtom) every thing in pieces on which ſhe could lay her Hands. But he very well knowing whence this Diſtemper proceeded, gently took her by the Hand, as tho' he deſign'd to carry her to the Snake-Houſe, but carried her indeed to the Place of Reſidence of the *Brandenburghers*, who were then at *Fida*, in order to buy Slaves, where he offer'd her to Sale. But when ſhe ſaw that he was in earneſt, immediately freed from her Madneſs, ſhe fell upon her Knees, and aſked his Pardon, ſolemnly promiſing at the ſame time never to be guilty of the like Crime for the future, upon which he let her go free; and by this means ſhe was deliver'd from her Madneſs, and he freed from the exceſſive Charge of her Cure. This was a very bold Attempt, for if the Prieſts had been inform'd of it, he had been a dead Man.

During my Reſidence at *Fida*, the King cauſed his Daughter to be ſeized by the Snake: (The Conſequence will juſtify my charging him with it,) He cauſed her to be carried to the Snake-Houſe, and confined for ſome time, tho' not ſo long as is cuſtomary; but on her account all the other Girls went out before their uſual Time.

On the Day of her Delivery, ſhe was brought out in a very ſplendid Manner, and carried with all the other Girls which followed her, to the King's Court, before which they were placed: She was naked, except only a Silk Scarf, which was paſſed betwixt her Legs, and richly adorn'd with *Conte di Terra* and *Agrie*, two ſorts of Coral, which I have already frequently mention'd.

Whilſt

Whilſt ſhe was here, ſhe was guilty of all manner of Extravagancies, during the playing on ſeveral muſical Inſtruments; which ſort of Madneſs the *Negroes* told me yet remained on her, more eſpecially by reaſon of her being enlarged before the Expiration of her due Time.

Whilſt ſhe ſate here, the moſt conſiderable People of the whole Country crowded hither, each bringing his Preſents which they made to her; and together, amounted to a conſiderable Sum: Theſe Gifts laſted three or four Days ſucceſſively, becauſe it was impoſſible for moſt of the People to come near her the firſt Day; ſo that this young Lady was treated in a quite different manner from her Companions, who were all obliged to diſburſe Money for their Delivery; whilſt ſhe, on the other ſide, was a very conſiderable Gainer thereby.

And if there are any *Negroes* who are very ſenſible that all this is nothing but a pure Cheat; yet to curry Favour with the King and Prieſts, and for their own Security, they pretend Ignorance, and ſuffer it to paſs upon them for real Truth; which is indeed adviſeable, for thoſe who ſhould oppoſe it, would very much endanger their Lives.

I was Eye-witneſs to a dreadful Inſtance of this. The laſt time I was at *Fida*, a *Negro*, born on the *Gold Coaſt*, who was called Captain *Tom*, lived at *Fida*; and by Reaſon of his good Deportment and obliging Nature, was promoted to the Dignity of Captain and Interpreter to the *Engliſh*. He being a Stranger to the Religion of this Country, had a Wife of this Nation, which fell mad, and pretended to be ſeiz'd by the Serpent: But he, inſtead of ſending her to the Snake-Houſe, clapt her in Irons; which ſo enrag'd this She-Devil (different from the other in our former Story) that ſhe privately accus'd her Huſband to the Prieſts; who, not willing to make any publick Attempt on him, becauſe he was a *Gold-Coaſt Negro*, who differed from them in Religion; yet ſecretly poiſon'd him in ſuch a

manner, that he did not quickly die, but immediately became Speechleſs, and loſt the uſe of all his Limbs, which was worſe than Dying.

At my Departure I left him in this miſerable Condition, ſo that I know not whether he was ever cured or not. From which you may obſerve, that throughout the World it is very dangerous to diſoblige the Eccleſiaſticks.

This may ſuffice concerning the Frauds of the Prieſts on account of the Snake-Worſhip.

The Reverence and Reſpect which the *Negroes* preſerve for the Snake is ſo great, that if a Black ſhould barely touch one of them with a Stick, or any otherwiſe hurt him, he is a dead Man, and certainly condemned to the Flames.

A long time paſt, when the *Engliſh* firſt began to Trade here, there happen'd a very remarkable and tragical Event. An *Engliſh* Captain being landed, ſome of his Men, and part of his Cargo, they found a Snake in their Houſe, which they immediately killed, without the leaſt Scruple; and not doubting they had done a good Work, threw out the dead Snake at their Door; where being found by the *Negroes* in the Morning, the *Engliſh* preventing the Queſtion who had done the Fact, aſcrib'd the Honour to themſelves; which ſo incenſed the Natives, that they furiouſly fell on the *Engliſh*, killed them all, and burned their Houſe and Goods.

This ſtruck ſuch a Terror into that Nation, that for a long time they refrain'd coming thither, and traded at other Places; but at laſt coming again, the *Negroes* were accuſtom'd to ſhew all *Europeans* that come thither ſome Snakes, deſiring that they would not hurt them, by reaſon they were their gods: And this hath prevented all ſuch Accidents ever ſince; ſo that at preſent, few *Europeans* come hither who are not adverti's'd of this Snake-Worſhip. If an *European* ſhould happen at this Time to kill a Snake, I ſhould very much doubt whether he would eſcape better than the

Engliſh, except he could poſſibly fly to the King immediately, and ſatisfy him that it happen'd by Accident, not Deſign; upon which, perhaps, he might atone his god-killing Crime by a Fine to the Prieſts, tho' I ſhould not be willing to run ſuch a Hazard; for, on ſuch Occaſions, the Rabble, inſtigated by the Prieſts, grow very outragious; ſo that it is ſafeſt carefully to avoid all things of this Nature.

In my Time, an *Aquamboean Negro* took a Snake upon his Stick, becauſe he durſt not venture to touch it with his Hands, and carry'd it out of the Houſe without hurting it in the leaſt; which two or three *Negroes* ſeeing, ſet up the ſame Cry that is uſual on account of Fire, by which they can in a ſmall time raiſe the whole Country, who flock to the Place arm'd with Clubs, Swords, Aſſagayes, and other Arms, who would have ſoon diſpatch'd this poor *Negro*, if the King, acquainted with his Innocence, had not timely reſcued him from the impending Danger, by ſending ſome of his Great Men to ſhelter him; ſo this Tempeſt blew over without any Damage.

By theſe Inſtances we are deterr'd from meddling with the accurſed gods or deviliſh Serpents, notwithſtanding that we are frequently moleſted by them; ſince in hot Sun-ſhine Weather (as if they were Lovers of Darkneſs) they viſit us by five or ſix together, creeping upon our Chairs, Benches, Tables, and even our Beds, and bearing us Company in Sleep; and if they get a good Place under our Beds, and our Servants, out of Lazineſs, don't turn up our Bedding, they ſometimes continue there ſeven or eight Days, where they have alſo caſt their Young.

But when we are aware of theſe Vermin, and do not deſire to be troubled with them any longer, we need only call any of the Natives, who gently carries his god out of Doors: But if they happen to be gotten to the Joyce, or any high Place of the Houſes (which are here but one Story) without a ſtrong Influence over the *Negroes*, they are not to be remov'd from thence;

wherefore we are frequently oblig'd to let them ſtay there till they come out themſelves.

A Snake once came over my Table, on which I daily was us'd to eat, where he continu'd fourteen Days; and tho' whenever I roſe, I could eaſily touch him, yet I could not find any Perſon that would venture to take him away: But I was very well paid for his ſtaying afterwards.

For ſome of the Great Men of *Fida* dining at my Table one Day, we happen'd to talk concerning the Snakes; and my Eye glancing towards that which was over our Heads, I told them, that ſince that Snake had not eaten any thing in fourteen Days, he muſt at laſt certainly die with Hunger, if he did not ſpeedily remove his Quarters. But one of my Gueſts anſwer'd me, (and the reſt confirm'd what he ſaid) That tho' I was not aware of it, undoubtedly the Snake knew how to come at his Part out of the Diſhes. I ſo well remember'd this, that next Day coming to the King, I told him in preſence of the ſame Perſons, that one of his gods had made bold, tho' uninvited, to eat at my Table for fourteen Days; wherefore it was but reaſonable that I ſhould be paid for his Board, otherwiſe I ſhould be oblig'd to diſcharge this bold Intruder my Houſe. The King, who was always diverted with ſuch ſort of Diſcourſe, told me, that I ſhould let the Snake alone in his Place, for he would take care to provide for me as well as the Snake; and indeed, not long after I got home, a very fine fat Ox was brought me from the King, in order to ſatisfy for what the Snake had eaten.

At the ſame rate I would willingly have boarded all the gods of the Land; and I believe, ſhould not have loſt much by the Bargain.

But what is beſt of all, is, that theſe Idolatrous Snakes don't do the leaſt Miſchief in the World to Mankind; for, if by chance in the Dark one treads upon them and they bite or ſting him, it is not more prejudicial than the Sting of the Millepedes: Where-

fore

fore the *Negroes* would fain perſuade us, that it is good to be bitten or ſtung by theſe Snakes, upon the Plea, that one is thereby ſecur'd and protected from the Sting of any poiſonous Snakes. But here I am ſomewhat dubious, and ſhould be loth to venture on the Credit of their Aſſertions, becauſe I have obſerv'd, that the gods themſelves are not Proof againſt theſe venomous Serpents, much leſs can they protect us from their Bite. We ſometimes obſerve pleaſant Battels betwixt the Idol and venomous Snakes, which are not wanting here; and perhaps theſe Combats ariſe from the venomous Snakes, their finding that the other are ſo reverenc'd and idoliz'd; which they think the more unreaſonable, becauſe they are arm'd with Poyſon, on Occaſion, which the other are utterly void of.

You muſt ſuppoſe theſe Ratiocinations and Arguments to take place in ancient Times, when Beaſts talk'd, of which theſe venomous Serpents retain only an irreconcileable Enmity againſt the other, and accordingly attack them whenever they meet them: But herein they fall ſhort of their Deſign, and that with a great deal of Reaſon; for, 'twould indeed ſeem very odd, that a god ſhould be oblig'd to ſtrike to ſuch ill-favour'd Creatures as they are. But I can aſſure you, that is not the Reaſon; for the venomous Serpents being larger, and arm'd with ſtronger Weapons than the other, would, without any reſpect to their godhead, ſoon be too hard for them, if they were not always afflicted by a Legion or two of their Worſhippers, who puniſh the Inſolence of the other, that preſumes to attack their Deity, with certain Death.

The Species of theſe Idol-Serpents here, are ſtreak'd with White, Yellow and Brown; and the biggeſt which I have ſeen here, is about a Fathom long, and the Thickneſs of a Man's Arm.

Theſe gods are very great Lovers of Rat's Fleſh, and I have with Pleaſure frequently obſerv'd their Rat-Chaſe; but when they have caught their Prey, they

have at least an Hour's Work before they can get him into their Bellies: For if you were to see them, they are so narrow-Throated, that you would think it impossible for them to get a Rat down; but I have observ'd, that whilst they are engag'd on their Prey, their Throat extends it self.

If one of these Snakes happen to be under the Tiling of a House, and a Rat passeth by him, he cannot possibly catch him, not being able to disengage himself quick enough: This the Rats seem to know; for I have above one hundred times on an Evening seen them run by a Snake thus engaged, and even mock him, whilst he impatiently hiss'd, and employ'd all his Force to loosen himself, in order to come at them; but too late, for by that time they were all gone.

If we are ever tir'd with the Natives of this Country, and would fain be rid of them, we need only speak ill of the Snake; after which, they immediately stop their Ears, and run out of Doors: But tho' this may be taken from an *European* that they like; yet if a *Negro* of another Nation should presume to do it, he would run no small Risque.

In case a Fire breaks out, and one of these Snakes comes to be burnt, each Person that hears it, is sure to stop his Ears, and give Money; thereby giving to understand, that it is one of the most dismal and shocking things that he can hear; and this Money is to reconcile him to the burnt god, of whom he hath been so careless: And they farther believe, that tho' the Snake is burnt, he will yet quickly return, to revenge himself on those who have been the Occasion of his Death.

In the Year 1697, my Brother Factor Mr. *Nicholas Poll* (who then manag'd the Slave-Trade for our Company at *Fida*) had the Diversion of a very pleasant Scene. A Hog being bitten by a Snake, in Revenge, or out of Love to god's Flesh, seiz'd and devour'd him in sight of the *Negroes*, who were not near enough to prevent him. Upon this

the

the Prieſts all complain'd to the King; but the Hog could not defend himſelf, and had no Advocate; and the Prieſts, unreaſonable enough in their Requeſts, begg'd of the King to publiſh a Royal Order, that all the Hogs in his Kingdom ſhould be forthwith kill'd, and the ſwiny Race extirpated, without ſo much as deliberating whether it was reaſonable to deſtroy the Innocent with the Guilty.

The King's Command was publiſh'd all over the Country. And in purſuance thereto, it was not a little diverting, to ſee Thouſands of Blacks arm'd with Swords and Clubs to execute the Order; whilſt, on the other ſide, no ſmall Number of thoſe who were Owners of the Hogs were in like manner arm'd in their Defence, urging their Innocence; but all in vain. The Slaughter went on, and nothing was heard but the diſmal Sound, Kill, kill, which coſt many an honeſt Hog his Life, that had liv'd with an unſpotted Character to his dying-Day. And doubtleſs the whole Race had been utterly extirpated, if the King (who is not naturally bloody-minded, perhaps mov'd to it by ſome Lovers of Bacon) had not recall'd his Order by a counter one; importing, that they ſhould leave off killing the Hogs; with the Addition, that there was already enough of innocent Blood ſhed, and that their god ought to be appeas'd with ſo rich a Sacrifice.

You may judge, whether this was not very welcome News to the Remainder of the Hogs, when they ſaw themſelves freed from ſuch a cruel Perſecution: Wherefore they took particular Care for the future, not to incur the ſame Penalty.

Next time that I came to *Fida*, I found by the dearneſs of theſe Beaſts, that there had been a very great Slaughter of them.

Theſe ſorts of Tyrannies are frequent under deſpotical Governments, where the Prieſts are joint Maſters: But not too faſt, leſt I ſhould ſlip from Beaſts to Men.

Hither-

Hitherto I have been talking of the *Fidaſian* chiefeſt god, or rather gods, by reaſon of their Number: But the other being of leſs Conſequence will take up much leſs time.

The Trees, which are the Second-rate gods of this Country, as I have already inform'd you, are only pray'd to, and preſented with Offerings in time of Sickneſs, more eſpecially Fevers, in order to reſtore the Patients to Health. And this they believe to be as properly the Tree's Buſineſs as the Snake's; but however, the Snake muſt not be forgotten; for they imagine, and that truly enough, that if he does no good, he will at leaſt do no harm. And hence I believe this Nation would be eaſily prevail'd upon with the *Athenians* to worſhip the unknown God, if they could hope for any Benefit by it.

Beſides this, they have other imaginary Remedies at hand to cure Diſeaſes; ſuch are their Sacrificing to ſeveral junior or inferior Deities; as alſo the killing and eating part of a Man, which was practis'd two or three Years paſt, on account of the King's Sickneſs; beſides which, they practiſe ſeveral other Extravagancies, too tedious to be repeated.

The Sea comes in for the leaſt Share of Divinity. When it rages and hinders our bringing our Goods on Shore, when no Ships have been there for a long time, and they impatiently wait for them; on theſe Occaſions, they make great Offerings to it, by throwing into it all ſorts of Goods: But the Prieſts don't much encourage this ſort of Sacrificing, by reaſon there happens no Remainder to be left for them.

The former King of *Great Ardra* once cauſed a great Quantity of theſe Offerings to be made to the Sea; and when he was inform'd by his Subjects (for he muſt not ſee the Sea himſelf) that they all availed nothing, he grew very angry, and fell into as wild a Fury as *Xerxes*, who cauſed the Sea to be whipp'd, becauſe he had been ſo unfortunate upon it.

Having

Having no more to ſay concerning theſe two Deities, before I put an end to this Letter, I ſhall juſt obſerve to you, who are the Performers of their Divine Service here.

Their religious Offices are here celebrated by Men and Women together, both which are held in ſuch high Veneration amongſt the *Negroes*, that they are not liable to capital Puniſhment for any Crime whatſoever; notwithſtanding which, the preſent King, with the Conſent of his Grandees, ventur'd to break in upon this Cuſtom, but not without great Cauſe, and a preſſing Neceſſity; for one of theſe Villains was engag'd with the King's Brother in a Conſpiracy againſt the Kingdom, and the King's Life, for which that Prince order'd both his Brother and the Prieſt to be kill'd together.

The Women which are promoted to the degree of Prieſteſſes, tho' ſome of them were perhaps Slaves before, are yet as much reſpected as the Prieſts, or rather more, inſomuch that they pride themſelves with the diſtinguiſhing Name of god's Children; and as all other Women are oblig'd to a ſlaviſh Service to their Huſbands, theſe, on the contrary, exert an abſolute Sway over them and their Effects, living with them perfectly according to their arbitrary Will and Pleaſure; beſides which, their Huſbands are obliged to ſhew them ſo much Reſpect, as they receiv'd from their Wives before their becoming Prieſteſſes, which is to ſpeak to, and ſerve them upon their Knees.

For this Reaſon, the moſt ſenſible *Negroes* will neither marry a Prieſteſs, nor eaſily conſent that any of their Wives be rais'd to that Honour: But if notwithſtanding it happens, they muſt not oppoſe it; for if they did, they would be call'd to a ſevere Account for it, and look'd upon as Men who endeavour'd to ſtop the common Courſe of Divine Worſhip.

To conclude the Subject of their Religion, I muſt add, that they have a ſort of Idea of Hell, the Devil, and the Apparition of Spirits: And their Notions concern-

concerning theſe, are not very different from thoſe of ſome ſimple People amongſt us. As for Hell, they beſtow it on a fix'd Place under the Earth, where the Wicked and Damned are puniſh'd with Fire.

For theſe three or four Years laſt paſt, they have been very much confirm'd in this Belief; for an old Sorcereſs, that came from ſome odd Corner, hath told them ſtrange Things concerning Hell; as, that ſhe ſaw ſeveral of her Acquaintance there, and particularly the laſt Captain of the *Blacks*, Predeceſſor to the preſent Captain *Carter*, who was there miſerably tormented. In ſhort, ſhe ſaw ſo much of Hell, that ſhe was a fit Match to diſpute with *Don Quevedo*, who had the beſt Intelligence there: But ſhe muſt be own'd to have the Advantage of him, becauſe ſhe pretended to have been there in Perſon, whereas his Journey was but in a Viſion.

Whilſt I was here, there was alſo an *Auguſtin* Monk, which came from St. *Thome*, in order, if poſſible, to convert the *Blacks* to Chriſtianity, but in vain. Polygamy is an Obſtacle which they cannot get over. As for all the other Points, they might have got Footing here; but the Confinement to one Wife is an inſuperable Difficulty.

This Prieſt invited the King to be preſent at Maſs, which he alſo did. And when I ſaw him next, aſking him how he lik'd it, he ſaid very well, and that it was very fine; but that he choſe rather to keep to his *Fetiche*.

This Prieſt, in my Company, being once in Diſcourſe with one of the King's Grandees, who was a witty Man, ſaid in a menacing Manner, *That if the* Fidaſians *continu'd their old Courſe of Life, without Repentance, they would unavoidably go to Hell, in order to burn with the Devil:* To which the ſharp *Fidaſian* reply'd, *Our Fathers, Grandfathers, to an endleſs Number, liv'd as we do, and worſhipp'd the ſame gods as we do; and if they muſt burn therefore, Patience, we are not better than our Anceſtors, and ſhall comfort our ſelves*

ſelves with them. After this the Prieſt left off, and perceiving that all his Pains at *Fida* were like to be fruitleſs, he deſir'd me to introduce him to the King to take his Leave of him, which I did ſhortly after.

If the *Negroes* could read and underſtand our Books, I ſhould believe that this Captain had read the *Frieſland* Chronicle, where a parallel Adventure betwixt a Biſhop and a *Frieſland* King is related. It is now time to conclude; wherefore, *&c.*

LETTER XX.

In which, firſt of the Fidaſian *Quadrupeds*; viz. *Oxen, Cows, Horſes, Sheep, Goats, and Hogs. Secondly, Of their Fowls, which are only Turkies, Ducks and Chicken. The Price of all the above-mention'd. Next, concerning all their three Sorts of Corn, and the Plenty of it; notwithſtanding which,* Fida *ſometimes ſuffers great Famines. The remaining Fruits of the Earth are Potatoes, Jammes, or Beans,* &c. *Great Plenty of the firſt. Of their Fruit-Trees. The Fertility of* Fida, *and Fitneſs for Plantations, and to produce Cotton, Indigo and Sugar. The Wars and Force of the* Fidaſians. *Their Arms.* Great Ardra, *much more Potent than* Fida. *War of* Great Ardra *with an Inland King. The Occaſion of this War, which deſtroy'd half the Country of* Ardra, *and made a cruel Slaughter of its Inhabitants.* Jakin *ſubject to* Great Ardra. *Of* Offra, *or* Little Ardra, *where our Company formerly had a Lodge. The Author's Departure from* Fida. *His Arrival at* Rio de Gabon. *Of the Gulph of* Guinea, *and its Iſlands and Rivers; as* Rio Formoſa (beautiful River) *otherwiſe call'd* Rio de Benin, Rio Elrei, Camarones, Old *and* New Calbary. *The Iſlands are* Fernando Po, El Principe (Prince's Iſland) *and* Coriſco, *divided into two, large and ſmall.* Rio de Gabon, *a fine, wide, and very good River. Two Iſlands in it: Viſited by ſeveral* Europeans, *and wherefore they trade there. Few Inhabitants, which are notwithſtanding divided into three Claſſes. Their Poverty and Pride. They're great Brandy-Drinkers, and awkard in Trade. How the King gets his* Livelyhood. *They're all well-ſhap'd and clean-limb'd Men. Their Occupation. Barrenneſs of the Land thereabouts. The River very full of Fiſh. Deſcription of the* Nord-Kapers, *of which here are great Quantities. On Land there are abundance of Buffels, Elephants*

phants and wild Swine. Hunting of them, and an Elephant, A Skeleton of an Elephant found. Deſcription of the Buffels. One of our Men kill'd by them. How they are ſhot by the Negroes. *The Author's Departure from* Gabon, *and Arrival at* Cabo Lopez di Gonſalvez. *where is a good Road, Watering-place, and Wood for Fuel. The Trade here. Plenty of Fiſh. Departure from* Cape Lopez. *He falls upon, or below the Iſland of St.* Thome, *which is deſcrib'd: As alſo* Ilha, Annaboa, *whither the Author alſo came after two Days Sailing. Sailing along the Æquinoctial, and the Cold there. Return to the Upper Coaſt, and to* Aſſinee. *The Dwelling-place of the* Negro *baptiz'd in* France, *to whom the* French *King was Godfather, and call'd him* Lewis Hannibal; *he paſſed for King of* Aſſyria, *but was indeed only a wretched Slave. Sailing to the* Gold Coaſt, *where the Author's Companion, or Ship which ſailed with him, took an Interloper. Arrival at* Elmina, *with which the Voyage, this Letter, and the whole Deſcription of* Guinea *is concluded.*

SIR,

SInce my laſt, no Veſſels have arriv'd here from *Europe*, and conſequently I receiv'd no Letter from you: I ſhall then at preſent in this, diſpatch what I have left untouch'd concerning *Fida* in the former; to which I ſhall add a Relation of a Voyage that I made in 1698, from *Fida* to *Rio de Gabon*, *Cabo-Lopez*, *Annaboa*, and my Return to *Elmina*, where it ended.

Firſt of all I am to ſpeak of the Cattle of the Country of *Fida*; of which firſt of the tame Quadrupeds, as Oxen, Cows, Goats, Sheep and Hogs; all which in Shape are not different from thoſe of the *Gold Coaſt*, but are much better, more fleſhy, and of a more agreeable Taſte, by reaſon they have here very fine Meadows, and as good Graſs as in *Europe*.

Nor are they dear here. An Ox or Cow is to be bought for ten, a good Sheep for two, a Goat for one, and a Hog for two Rixdollars.

Nor are Horſes wanting here, tho' they do not much excel thoſe which I mention'd in my Deſcription of the *Gold Coaſt*. When I was deſign'd to have took my Journey by Land to *Elmina*, I was provided with five or ſix, each of which coſt me ſomewhat leſs than

Four

Four Pounds *Sterling*; but they did me no manner of Service, I being oblig'd to leave them behind me.

Here, as well as on the *Gold Coaſt*, is no great Variety of tame Fowl, there being only Turkies, Ducks and Chicken; and of the two firſt, not many, but of the laſt, incredible Plenty; which, tho' ſmall, are yet very fat and good, the Price being about Six-pence each; the Price of our Goods reckon'd for as Money, they are not above Three pence each.

But if any Body would buy in Proviſion cheap, he muſt bring two or three Caſes of long Pipes with him; for he may put off every Pipe for the worth of Two-pence, or ſometimes Four-pence; ſo that for three Pipes one may have the beſt Pullet that is to be bought.

There are not very many large wild Beaſts about *Fida*; but there are farther Inland, Elephants, Buffels, Tygers, and ſeveral ſorts of Deer in great Abundance. And there are ſome of the laſt ſort at *Fida*; but the Country there being ſo populous and cloſe inhabited, there are not many. Here are alſo a ſort of Hares.

But this whole Country ſeems cover'd with wild Fowl: Here are Geeſe, Ducks, Snipes, and twenty other ſorts of edible Birds; all which are very good and very cheap.

When over-Night we give a *Negro* order to go a-Shooting, we have againſt next Day Noon, without fail, one or two Diſhes of wild Fowl, which we can pay for with a Dozen of Pipes; and this is ſo infallible, that we can at pleaſure promiſe a good Treat of wild Fowl not yet caught.

Here are ſuch prodigious Abundance of Turtle-Doves throughout the whole Country, that my Aſſiſtant, who was a good Markſman, would undertake to ſhoot one hundred in one Day, betwixt Six and Nine in the Morning, and Three and Six in the Afternoon only, which is bare ſix Hours in all.

Beſides

Beſides edible Fowl, here are alſo a ſufficient Number of Birds of Prey, which may ſerve for Ornament, tho' not ſuch great Variety as on the *Gold Coaſt*.

The Crown-Bird you ſee in the Drawing comes from hence, as the following Bird, whoſe Body is about as big as a Chicken, his Legs and Neck ſhort, his Eye and Eye-lids hairy, like thoſe of Men; his Bill ſhort and thick, his Colour is Black and Blue intermix'd; his Legs and Bill are very ſtrong, and therefore fit for preying.

If I ſhould ſay any more of the feather'd Kind, I ſhould be oblig'd to repeat what I have formerly ſaid, which I believe you are as little deſirous of as my ſelf; ſo that now I come to the Product of the Earth: And firſt of Corn, of which we are here provided with three Sorts. The firſt is the great *Milhio*, which is not ſo large a Grain as that on the *Gold Coaſt*, but as good; notwithſtanding which, the *Negroes* don't make Bread of it, but uſe it in the brewing of Beer; for which Reaſon, not much of it is ſown.

Small *Milhio*, or *Maiz*, which is like that on the *Gold Coaſt*, is what chiefly ſerves to employ this Nation: It is ſowed twice each Year, tho' much more at one time than the other. In the beſt Tilling-time, the Land is ſo thick ſown, that as I have before hinted, ſcarce a Foot-path is left unplanted, whence we may ſuppoſe prodigious Quantities are produc'd; but notwithſtanding this, at the end of the Year, they rather fall ſhort of what they want, than have any Overplus, which is partly occaſion'd by their being ſo very populous, and partly by their ſelling very large Quantities to both the *Popo*'s, and the neighbouring Countries.

For which Reaſon, one barren Year occaſions an incredible Famine here; and ſometimes Freemen here have ſold themſelves for Victuals; others ſet their Slaves free, perfectly diſcharging them of their Slavery, becauſe they could not keep them in Victuals. An *Engliſh* Ship, which was here at that Time, got his whole Ship full of Slaves, without parting with any other

other Merchandize than Victual, with which he very luckily had abundantly provided himself.

When he had fill'd his Ship full of Slaves, he went to the *Portugueze* Islands, where he afresh stor'd himself with Provisions for his Goods.

Here is also a third sort of *Millio*, like the last, which doth not grow on Stalks, but like Oats in *Holland*. Its Grain is reddish, and must continue in the Ground seven or eight Months before it is full ripe. This is not eaten, but mixed with the great *Millio*, to brew withal, because the *Negroes* firmly believe that it strengthens the Beer.

The *Negro* Women are very well skill'd in brewing good Beer; one sort of which is so strong, that it doth not give place to our Strong-Beers in *Holland*. And the Price of this is much higher than the common sort; for instead of Three-pence a Pottle for the common sort, you are oblig'd to pay a Rixdollar for the same Quantity of this. All People here, the Slaves not excepted, drink only Beer; for Water they will not drink, because it is drawn out of Wells twenty or thirty Fathom deep, and but six or eight Foot wide; so that no Sun can reach it, which renders it raw and cold as Ice, and consequently very unwholsome in this hot Country; for drinking it but few Days only, brings an unavoidable Fever; and the good Beer being too hot, an *European* cannot do better than mix them in equal Quantities, whereby he will have a pleasant and wholsome Drink.

There is not one Oven in this whole Country, by reason the *Negroes* never use them, but always boil their Bread.

Potatoes are what they commonly eat instead of Bread with all sorts of Victuals, and here is such abundant Plenty of them, that I believe the whole Coast doth not produce the like Number.

Here are also Jammes, but neither in such Plenty, nor so good as on the *Gold Coast*, nor are they much esteem'd here.

Here are several sorts of small Beans in very great Plenty, amongst which is one Species, of which our People make Oil-Cakes, which are as light as ours in *Holland*; and those who are used to them, like their Taste well enough: They are here call'd *Acraes*. Onions and Ginger grow here, tho' in small Quantities, especially the former. All the other Fruits of the Earth which the *Gold Coast* produceth, grow here also: But I shall pass them by, in order to come to the Trees.

Amongst which are, first Citrons, Lemons, Oranges, Bakovens or Paquovens, Banana's, Piement; and in a word, all those which I have mention'd in the Description of the *Gold Coast*; besides which, here are abundance of Tamarind-Trees, and some Fruit-Trees which are not only unknown, but their Fruit is also so mean, that it is not worth detaining you with a Description of them.

Here are great Numbers of Palm-Trees the whole Country over; but the Wine is drawn off, and drank by very few here; for they cultivate them only in order to draw Oil from them.

Nor are the Pardon-Trees wanting at *Fida*; but the *Negroes* preferring Beer to Wine, they are not much esteem'd; only their Wood being very durable, they are felled for Building.

Besides the beforemention'd, here are no Fruits: It is indeed pity there should be no more in such a fertile Land, Peopled with industrious Inhabitants, so that they want only Seeds and young Plants; for I dare aver, that not only all sorts of *African*, but several *European* Fruits might be produced here.

I tried here the Sowing of Cabbage, Carrots, Turneps, *Spanish* Radish, Radishes, Parsley, *&c.* and found they grew forward, and ripened as well as in *Europe*. So that it is unhappy that this Land, as well as the *Gold Coast*, is not inhabited by some *Europeans*; for here might be planted the finest Salade Gardens in the World.

And I believe this Soil is as fit for Plantations of Sugar-Canes and Indigo, eſpecially of the laſt, as any other Part of the Globe.

Indigo is already very plentiful here; and beſides, if it doth not exceed that of *Aſia* and *America*, it yet equals it. All the Cloaths of the Inhabitants are dyed with it; but being ignorant of the true Way of uſing it, they waſte four times as much in the dying of Cloath as would really do it; and the Indigo ſpent in dying it, would yield more with us than their whole Cloath is worth.

Having proceeded thus far in the Deſcription of *Fida*, its pleaſant Situation, Cattle, Fruits, and the Nature of their Inhabitants, I ſhall by way of Supplement and Concluſion, ſay ſomething of their Wars and Ammunition.

As for the firſt, they may be thought perhaps very potent, ſince they can eaſily bring Two hundred thouſand Men into the Field; notwithſtanding which, they are ſo weak and heartleſs, that they would not venture on Five thouſand well-arm'd Men, tho' but *Negroes* of the *Gold Coaſt*, nor ſcarce ſtand before them.

For which ſeveral Reaſons might be given; as Firſt, they are ſo ſtrongly bent to Trade and Agriculture, that they never think of War.

Secondly, they want able Commanders; for if they are forced into the Field, they entruſt the Command of their whole Army to a worthleſs Perſon, never ſtanding for any Proof of his Courage.

Thirdly, and chiefly, their common Fear of Death renders them ſo incredibly cowardly, that moſt of them ſet to Running before the Enemy appears.

As I have told you, the Command of the Army is entruſted to an ordinary Perſon, whilſt the Captains and chief Men, out of Fear, ſtay at home. But if it happens that any of them is endow'd with any Portion of Courage, and goes into the Field, Affairs go ſomewhat better: But with the other General, by whom

the Inferiors will not be commanded, they are very unſucceſsful; for theſe Heroes no ſooner perceive any thing coming againſt them, but they expect Safety from their Feet; and being at leaſt as fond of Life as the reſt, it is commonly obſerv'd that the General gets home before his Soldiers, if he be but moderately nimble, without troubling himſelf in general Flights, what becomes of his Army.

But he is yet aſſured of one thing, which is, that his Men will not ſtay long behind; but for their own Security, certainly follow his Example.

Hence you may judge what Heroes they are in attacking other Countries; but to ſay truth, they ſhew ſomewhat more of Courage in the Defence of their own Country as long as is poſſible, confirming the old Proverb, *That every Dog will bark in his own Kennel.*

This Cowardice is not particular to the *Fidaſians*, but the Natives of *Ardra* are full as bad; wherefore they never fight againſt each other with their own Forces, but hire the *Gold-Coaſt Negroes* for that purpoſe, of which the Natives of *Aquamboe* are generally firſt at Hand; but if *Coto* and *Popo* were united, by reaſon of their nearer Neighbourhood, they would be more proper.

The Arms of the *Fidaſe* and of *Ardra* conſiſt in a few Muſkets, Bows and Arrows, fine and well made Hangers, ſtrong and beautiful Aſſaguays; but the principal Weapons, and on which they moſt depend, are a ſort of Clubs about a Yard long, five or ſix Inches thick, very round and even, except a Knot at the bottom, the breadth of a Hand, and three Fingers thick. Every Man is provided with five or ſix of theſe.

Theſe Clubs are made of a very heavy Wood; and they are ſo dextrous in the throwing of them, that they can fling them ſeveral Paces and hit their Enemy; and where-ever it falls, it bruiſes very much, and breaks their Limbs: Wherefore the *Gold-Coaſt Negroes* are almoſt

moſt as much afraid of theſe deviliſh Weapons as of a Muſket it ſelf.

Having inform'd you of the moſt obſervable Particulars of the Countries of *Fida* and *Ardra*, I might indeed hint ſome Things of leſs Importance, as concerning the Differences betwixt *Fida* and *Ardra*; but it not being worth while, entirely ſtepping over it, I ſhall only give you the following Account of *Great Ardra*.

The King of *Great Ardra*, with all his dependant Countries, is twenty times as ſtrong as he of *Fida*, and yet hath not the Courage to make War againſt him, tho' they live in perpetual Enmity.

Farther Inland are yet more potent Kingdoms than this; but I knowing nothing, or at moſt but very little; except that while I was here, one of their Ambaſſadors came to the King of *Great Ardra*, to advertiſe him from his Maſter, *That ſeveral* Ardraſian Negroes *had been with, and made Complaints to him: And to adviſe him to take care that his Viceroys treated theſe poor Men more gently; or elſe much againſt his Will, he ſhould be obliged to come to their Aſſiſtance, and take them into his Protection.*

The King of *Great Ardra*, inſtead of making a proper Uſe of this wholſome Advice, laughed at it; and in farther Deſpight to that King, murder'd his Ambaſſador; upon which he was ſo violently, as well as juſtly enrag'd, that with utmoſt Expedition he cauſed an Army (by the *Fidaſians* augmented to the Number of Ten hundred thouſand Men) to fall into their Country; and theſe being all Horſed, and a warlike Nation, in a ſhort time maſter'd half the King of *Ardra*'s Territories, and made ſuch a Slaughter amongſt his Subjects, that the Number of the Dead being innumerable, was commonly expreſs'd by ſaying, they were like the Grains of Corn in the Field.

The *Fidaſians* reported to me of the mention'd People, that it was cuſtomary in their Wars, to cut off all the Privities of ſlaughter'd Enemies, and carry

them off with them; as also, that none durst presume to take an Enemy Prisoner, that was not furnish'd with one hundred of these Trophies.

This looks very fabulous, insomuch that tho' it is confirmed to me by Oaths, I don't affirm it for Truth. But it is certain, that the Slaughter was prodigious great; and that the General of this great Army contenting himself therewith, returned home, expecting to be very well receiv'd by his Master, but found himself mistaken; for the King, as a Reward of his heroick Expedition, caus'd him to be hang'd on a Tree; because, according to his Order, he did not bring the Person of the King of *Great Ardra* along with him, on whom, and not his Subjects, he aimed his Revenge.

You may please to observe what Mischiefs this Prince brought on himself; and also, that the Law of Nations is as well observ'd amongst these Heathens as us *Europeans*: For this great Monarch did not account himself satisfy'd by the Death of so many Thousand Men for the Murder of his Ambassador, but would rid the World of the particular Occasion of it.

Which whether he afterwards did, I have not yet heard; but I believe, he will content himself with the Blood already shed.

This Nation strikes such a Terror into all the circumjacent *Negroes*, that they can scarce hear them mention'd without trembling: And they tell a thousand strange Things of them.

Four Miles *Eastward* of *Fida* is the Land of *Jakin*, which, as I have already said, is under *Great Ardra*, by whose *Phidalgo* it is at present govern'd.

A little lower, but farther Inland, lies the Land of *Offra*, called *Little Ardra* by the *Europeans*; where our Company many Years since had a Lodge and a Factor, and drove a considerable Trade; but since our Factor was kill'd, and the Land laid waste by the *Popoans*, we have not been there: And the Country

hath

hath moſtly lain wild and untill'd, in which State it will probably continue ſeveral Years; for the Kings of *Great Ardra* and *Fida* are at Strife for the Maſtery of it, each being deſirous to appoint his Viceroys, and yet neither of them dare begin.

But to leave them diſputing, and go aboard the Ship call'd, *Stad en Land* (City and Country) in which I ſailed from *Fida* on the 14th of *Auguſt* 1698, ſteering towards *Rio de Gabon*, where in eleven Days we arrived, without meeting any thing remarkable in our Paſſage. We had a continual freſh Gale, but were oblig'd moſtly to bear up to the Wind, otherwiſe we had reached it perhaps in eight Days.

Before I come to ſpeak of *Rio de Gabon*, I would ſay ſomething of the Gulph of *Guinea*, by which Name it is beſt known to the *Europeans*. It extends from *Ardra* to *Cape Lopez*, in length —— Miles. Betwixt theſe two Extremities are ſeveral fine large Rivers, by which means we keep Trade alive here with our Yatchts; the Commodity which we get there being Elephants Teeth, of which this Country produces a great Quantity.

The Trading-Places are *Rio Formoſa* (or beautiful River) otherwiſe call'd *Rio de Benin*, from the great Kingdom of that Name. Next is, *Rio d' Elrei*, or *King's River*; and *Camarones*, together with *Old* and *New Calbary*. Of the firſt River, I hope before long to be Maſter of a Deſcription, which you are then to expect.

In the Gulph of *Guinea* lye alſo Four Iſlands, call'd *El Prineipe*, or, *Prince's Iſland*; the Iſle of *Fernando Po*, and *Coriſco* divided into two, the Greater and Leſſer.

At *Great Coriſco* our Company had ſome Years paſt a ſettled Trading-Lodge; but it lying too far diſtant, and not turning to a very great Account, we left it, and have not been there ſince.

Coriſco are two very agreeable Iſlands, and the Land ſo low, that at a Diſtance the Multitudes of Trees

there, seemed planted in the Water, and afforded a very pleasant Prospect.

The Island of *Fernando Po* is inhabited by a savage and cruel sort of People, which he that deals with, ought not to trust: I neither can nor will say more of them.

The *Prince's Island* was at the latter end of the Fifteenth Century subject to a considerable Merchant of *Amsterdam*; but by reason of the Dissention of our Countrymen, and the Treachery of the *Portugueze* (its first Masters) we were oblig'd to quit it. And at present the *Portugueze* Company have built a strong Fort there, and indifferently well Peopled the Island, which is fertile and well situated; or at least the *Portugueze* Till it so well, that it yields them vast Quantities of Provisions, which they sell to all Ships for Money; besides which, they can also store their own Ships very plentifully.

All sorts of Ships which have been to fetch Slaves, touch here, or at the other *Portugueze* Islands, in order to take in Refreshments, except only our Company's Vessels, which avoid it (I believe) out of a groundless Jealousy, that when our Masters of Vessels come to these Islands, they should drive a clandestine Trade to the Prejudice of our Company; but in reality, at *Annaboa*, the Chief of these Isles, nothing else is to be gotten but bare Refreshments, as well for our own People as the Slaves: And of what Assistance and Advantage this would be to our Company, I leave to those who have experienc'd it only to determine.

It is morally certain, that so many of the Slaves would not sicken and die, if they were sometimes furnish'd with Refreshments; but the Directors of the Company are otherwise inform'd, on what Grounds I know not. But perhaps the Reason why our Vessels dot not touch here, may be either unknown, or unfit to be known by me; and leaving it so, I come to *Rio de Gabon*.

This

This River is ſituated fifteen Miles from *Gabo Lopez di Gonſalvez*, or the utmoſt Point of the Gulph of *Guinea*; and is ſo famous, that no Nation which ever ſailed to this part of *Africa*, can be unacquainted with it: It is a very fine River, and above two Miles over at the Mouth.

Having paſſed three or four Miles up this River, we come to the two Iſlands, one of which takes its Name from the King, and the other from the Prince of this River, *Two Great Lords*; but they both are deſolate and wild: For pure Fear of each other, the King hath left one, and the Prince the other; each of them living at preſent upon a particular Branch of the River, of which Branches here are a great Number.

For ſome Miles this River is navigable with ſmall Ships; but I cannot exactly tell you how wide it is, or how far its Courſe extends Inland.

Several Ships (as I have juſt told you) viſit this River, on account as well of the Trade which is driven here, as of its convenient Situation for the cleaning and refitting of Veſſels: Thoſe that come hither on the laſt Account, unlade their heavy Baggage, as Guns, Anchors, Water-Barrels, *&c.* on *Prince's Iſland*; and by help of a flowing Tide, get their Ships as far on Land as poſſible, that by means of the ſtrong Ebb they may be on a ſort of dry Ground, and thereby obtain an Opportunity of repairing them all round. But this is not very adviſeable with great Ships, by reaſon they may eaſily get ſome Miſchief by lying dry; and one of our Cruizers that ſailed in company with me, would not run the Hazard of it; but choſe rather to faſten his Ship to ours, by which means he could come even at her Keel to clean her, which was conſequently better than to lay her dry.

The Trade of this River conſiſts in Elephants Teeth, Wax and Honey, and is ſometimes indifferently quick, eſpecially if no Ships have been there lately; which ſeldom happens, for the *Zealand* Interlopers viſit it the whole Year round, in order to cleanſe their Ships,

and

and ſtore themſelves with Water and Wood; and Trade withal as long as they are there: But their chief Aim is Cleanſing their Ships and Trading, for they can have Water and Wood as well at *Cape Lopez* as here.

Any Perſon that never was here before, muſt be amaz'd at the unevenneſs of the bottom of this River; for in one place we have ten, immediately fifteen, then five, and preſently twelve Fathom Water; as if the Mouth of the River were filled up with Rocks.

The Ebb is here ſo ſtrong, that even with a good Wind 'tis ſcarce poſſible to ſail into the River, but we are obliged to wait till Flood.

I made a Trial of this my ſelf, but we were ſtopp'd in the Mouth, and had enough to do to bear up againſt the Ebb with full Sail, loſing more Ground than we gained, and could not get in before the Flood.

The Inhabitants of this River, tho' but a ſmall Number, are yet divided into three Claſſes; one of which is with the King, the other with the Prince, and the third trouble themſelves with neither, but live quietly.

The two former are always warring againſt each other, but not in open Field; for which purpoſe I don't believe them ſtrong enough; but they fall on and rob one another by Night, and at unſeaſonable Times, and return home with either the Booty, or Blows which they get.

Theſe People are the moſt wretchedly poor and miſerable that I think I ever ſaw; and beſides, to augment their Miſeries, they are ſo very proud, that they thereby become the more ridiculous; eſpecially if the Reaſon of their Vanity be look'd into, which is barely a *Dutch* Name, there being none of 'em that come on Board of us that want one, with which they immediately make us acquainted, imagining we value them the more on that account; and are very well pleaſed

pleaſed with us for calling them by their borrowed Name.

Exceſſive Brandy-Drinking ſeems the innate Vice of all *Negroes*, but theſe are moſt accurate Proficients, and really herein exceed all others that I have ever converſed with: They conſume in this all they can come at. They will ſell an indifferent large Elephant's Tooth for this Liquor, which they will drink out before they part; nay, ſometimes before they ſo much as go out of the Ship.

If one chance to get but a Mouthful more than another, and they are half drunk, they immediately fall on fighting, without any reſpect to the King, Prince, or Prieſt, who on ſuch an Occaſion lay about them briſkly with their Fiſts, that they may not be accuſed of being idle Spectators: Theſe Heroes are ſo warm and vigorous at their Work, that Hats, Perukes, Coats, or whatever they have, are thrown overboard.

Perhaps you may be ſurpriz'd that theſe poor Wretches ſhould wear Hats, Perukes, *&c.* which they do in a particular diſmal Manner. Formerly a great Trade was driven here in old Perukes by our Sailors: For theſe, they got whatever they pleas'd of theſe People, as Wax, Honey, Parrots, Monkeys, and all ſorts of Refreſhments.

But for theſe four Years, ſo many Merchants of theſe ſorts of Goods have been here, that the Sailor ſwears the Trade is utterly ſpoiled; and tho' his prime Stock coſts him nothing, yet it doth not at preſent turn to account.

The beſt Quality in theſe People, is, that as great Lovers of Brandy as they are, they yet are not very nice; for I have ſeen ſome of our Men give them Brandy half lengthen'd out with Water; and for Proof, they told me, there was a little *Spaniſh* Soap clapt into it, and the Scum of the Soap paſſed on them for the Proof; and they praiſed this Brandy as

ſo extraordinary good, that they would willingly have laid in a Stock of it.

I deſign'd, when I came into this River, to have traded for ſome Ivory and Wax for our Company, and had brought ſeveral Goods with me to that end; but found them ſo very troubleſome, that I could not have Patience to deal with them; and there being another of the Companies Ships here, which alſo had Orders to trade, I left it wholly to them, being very glad that I was ſo cheaply rid of them. And theſe Wretches appeared the worſe to me, becauſe I was uſed to deal with ſuch civil *Negroes* at *Fida* for an hundred times more than the Commerce of this Place: For to ſell one Tooth, they would ſometimes haggle a whole Day; go five or ſix times away, and come again; aſk and bid as if they were in a Fiſh-Market, and come to no Reſolution.

As great Lovers of Brandy as they are, they will not yet, when they firſt come on Board, and are aſk'd to drink, touch a Drop before they have receiv'd a Preſent: And if we ſhould happen to ſtay too long before we give them any thing, they will boldly aſk us if we imagine that they will drink for nothing; it not being ſufficient to content this wretched Crew, that they drink up our Liquor for nothing, but they muſt beſides be hir'd to it, as tho' they thereby did us a very great Honour; and he that intends to trade here, muſt humour them herein, or he ſhall not get one Tooth on Board. Thus the Merchant which would deal here, ought to be very well arm'd with *Job*'s Weapon, without which nothing is to be done.

After I had given over the Trade, a ſtrange Troop of *Negroes* came on Board me, to whom I preſented ſome Brandy, and would have cauſed them to be carried to our other Ship; but theſe Gentlemen would not drink before I made them a Preſent, which I had no mind to do, wherefore they marched out of my Cabin; but underſtanding that I did not intend to trade, they all very humbly return'd, begging

what

what I before offer'd them; but I told them I was not at leiſure, and they went off without any thing.

They are very ready to make us Preſents at our firſt Arrival, but are much readier to receive others in requital from us; and when we happen to be too ſlow, they aſk where is our Counter-Preſent, or we will take our own back again; which, without making much ado, they eaſily do, if our Preſent be not worth more than theirs. In ſhort, theſe are Men which no otherwiſe differ from Beaſts than in Shape.

Their Cloathing is like that of other *Negroes*, but very poor and wretched; for they deal with our Men for all their old Coats, Shirts, Breeches, *&c.* and all other old Cloaths; and when dreſſed in them, think themſelves very fine.

As to what farther relates to their Manners, I ſhall not ſay much, becauſe I am unacquainted with them; but if you take what hath been already ſaid for a Specimen, you may eaſily form an Idea of the Remainder.

I do not believe they have much Religion. I have obſerv'd them to be very ſuperſtitious, and that as well as others they have great Numbers of Idols; but of what ſort they are, or what they believe concerning them, I was not able to obſerve in my ſhort Stay here.

That their Government is not extraordinary, I obſerv'd from the ſmall Reſpect they ſhew'd each other; whence, without fear of Hereſy, I dare conclude, that every free Perſon lives here for himſelf, without much troubling himſelf with King or Prince; and that thoſe Gentlemen have only the bare Name of Royalty, without the leaſt Shadow of the Thing it ſelf.

The preſent King, like an honeſt Man, in order to rub through the World, follows the Trade of a Smith to get his Bread; not neglecting other Perquiſites, the chiefeſt of which is, letting his Wives at a reaſonable Price to the *Europeans* during their Stay there; notwith-

withſtanding which, he is, as all the reſt are, a very poor Man.

They are moſtly large, robuſt, well-ſhap'd Men: They beſmear their Bodies with Elephants and Buffels Fat, and a certain ſort of red Colour, which makes them ſtink abominably; eſpecially the Women, which one can hardly come near without turning ſick. And yet they venture to drive a publick Trade with their Bodies, expoſing their Favours to Sale at a very cheap Rate; and where they fear no Danger, they will readily relieve the languiſhing Lover for a Knife, or a Trifle of that Value: But thoſe who engage with theſe Ladies, muſt be very fond of new Faces, for if a Man happen to be the leaſt nice or ſqeamiſh, he will ſufficiently wind them at Twelveſcore Yards, to deter him from any nearer Approaches.

But the Caſe is different with a common Sailor, who is content with every thing that is but Woman.

I am apt to think that the moſt part of the Inhabitants depend chiefly on Hunting and Fiſhery; for I don't believe that they trouble themſelves with Agriculture, nor did I ſee any Corn or *Milhio* during my Stay here; but inſtead of that, I daily ſaw them eat immature Banaca's roaſted at the Fire: They had alſo Jammes, Potatoes, and ſmall Beans, but in no great Plenty.

The Land doth not ſeem very fertile or fit to produce Corn, or other Fruits of the Earth; at leaſt what I have ſeen of it, which is from the Mouth of the River to the *Prince's-Iſland*. But as for thoſe Fruits which grow on Trees, they have great Plenty of them; wherefore I believe that their *Banana* is, beſides what they eat with it, the Staff of their Life.

This River is prodigiouſly ſtock'd with all ſorts of good Fiſh, and I aſſure you, we purſued them very cloſely, and catch'd ſo many, that we abundantly ſtor'd our ſelves for our whole Voyage.

The *Negroes* manner of Fiſhing here is very diverting; for paſſing along the River-ſide in a Canoe, and perceiving a Fiſh, they inſtantly dart an Aſſaguay at

at him; which is so certain a way, that by means of their Dexterity, it very seldom missed.

Before the Mouth of *Rio de Gabon*, we daily observed Shoals of large unweildy Fish, which we call *Noord-Kapers*, or *Northern Capers*; tho' they look more like a Species of the Whales, which if they are not, it is certain they are not many Removes from them.

These Fish we guessed to be about forty Foot long, but I believe I have seen some longer: They came so near our Ship, that we could easily reach them with a long Pole, supposing them to continue still. If we had a good Shoal of these Fish, and could brace them to, and guide them before our Ships, as we do Horses to our Waggons, I doubt not but we should always run a swift Course.

But to leave this Diversion to *Neptune*, and return to our Subject.

They swim chiefly on the Surface of the Water, having a young one or two near them, who springing up to the top of the Water, in Imitation of their Dam, mount above Water: They blow up the Water with very great Violence, and put the Sea in as great a Ferment as a Ship under Sail; and in spouting of Water, they would easily outdo the best Water-works at *Fontainbleau*; and it is not less diverting than rare to see a Number of these Fishes together.

The Land about this River incredibly abounds with wild Beasts, especially Elephants, Buffels, and wild Boars.

As soon as we had dispatched our Affairs at *Prince's Island*, and careen'd our Ship, we sailed down the River again, in order to Anchor at the *Sand-Punt*, i. e. *Sand-Point*, or *Zuidhoeck*, i. e. *South-Nook*, and provide our selves with Water, which is better there than at *Cape Lopez*. Being advanced about an *English* Mile from this Place, we got sight of an Elephant; which taking the same Course with us, walked very gently along the River-side to the before-mention'd Place, where,

where, accompanied with my Captain, and ſome of my Servants, we ſtept into a Boat, and landed together, and immediately ſet upon the Elephant; but after having purſued him very hard for an Hour, we could not overtake him, but loſt ſight of him in a Wood.

At the writing hereof, I tremble to think what a Riſque we ran, and what Danger we were in; for not being above Ten or Twelve ſtrong, and not half of us provided with good Fire-Arms, we ſhould have attack'd this Elephant if we could have come at him; fondly imagining to have fetch'd him down with two or three Shot, which I have ſince found was what two or three hundred Men could ſcarce do. Thus we all had reaſon to thank Heaven that we did not overtake this Beaſt; for if we had, if not all, yet at leaſt ſome of us had been left dead on the Spot.

In our Return, we met five Elephants together, who looking on us, I ſuppoſe, thought us not worth their Anger, and therefore ſuffer'd us to paſs them without the leaſt Diſturbance; and we owning them ſtronger than we, were very well pleas'd, and after pulling off our Hats in grateful Acknowledgment of their Civility, went on our way.

We lay three Days ſtill before this Place, during which Time, having no other Employment, I went every Morning on Shore, in order to fall upon ſome of the wild Beaſts, but not Elephants, which I had in a ſort ſufficiently forſworn ſince our laſt Adventure: But the wild Swine afforded us the moſt Diverſion, and were what we chiefly intended to exerciſe our ſelves on; and accordingly, the ſecond Day that we came on Shore, we were ſo fortunate as to meet a Troop of above three Hundred. We began immediately to hunt them with utmoſt Fury, but having four Legs to our two, they were too nimble for us, ſo that they ſoon got out of our Reach; except only one, which we cut off from his Companions, and ſo beſet him, that he ſeemed obliged to pay dear for lagging,

ging, ſince there was no other way of flying left him than into a Thicket; in which we purſued him ſo cloſe, that in a very ſhort time he was likely to fall into our Hands.

But he eſcaped us in the following manner. Being come into the midſt of the Thicket, as tho' we had been in a well-built Garden-Houſe or Bower, we found a Skeleton of an Elephant; and the Surprize of this Adventure detain'd us from the Purſuit of the wild Boar, in order to examine the Skeleton nicely; which we found entire, with the Teeth affixed to his Head, which I cauſed to be taken out and weighed, their Weight being ſeventy Pounds; I meaſur'd his Legs, and found the fore, three; and the hind, four Foot; the Head alſo four Foot, and the Remainder of the Body proportionable; whence you may conjecture how large he was when living and cover'd with Fleſh.

The two firſt Days being paſt in fruitleſs Elephant and wild Boar Chaſe, we deſigned to ſpend the third in the latter Sport; but when we came on Shore, we found that their Place was taken up by about one hundred Buffels: Not being diſcouraged, we run at them, and being come near a Parcel of eighteen or twenty, we preſented them with half a Dozen Bullets, but I believe did not hurt one of them. They all ſtood ſtill, and ſeemed to look very angrily on us, conſulting, I ſuppoſe, whether they ſhould puniſh our Inſolence or not; but ſince none of them was wounded, it paſſed in the Negative, and we eſcaped free.

Theſe Buffels were Red, with ſtrait Horns extended backwards, about the Size of an Ox; as they ran, they ſeemed lame behind, but that did not hinder their being very ſwift.

The *Negroes* informed us, that when theſe Beaſts are ſhot, and not mortally wounded, they fly at the Men and kill them.

We the eaſier believe this, becauſe about ten Years paſt, our Men going a Buffel-hunting here, one of them being too forward, let fly at a Buffel; but was

immediately ſeiz'd, and had been kill'd by him, if one of his Comrades had not come to his Aſſiſtance; who, notwithſtanding, firing at the Buffel, was ſo unhappy as to miſs him, and mortally wounded his Companion, and the Buffel ſoon trod out the ſmall Remainder of the Snuff of his Life.

This unhappy Accident agreeing with the *Negro*'s Report, made us rejoice that we had met with ſo good-natur'd Buffels; and immediately reſolv'd never for the future to attempt the Elephant and Buffel Chace; which Reſolution, in order to be remember'd, was regiſter'd in its proper Place.

The *Negroes*, to prevent ſuch Misfortunes, go more warily to work: They firſt obſerve the Place where the Buffels reſort in the Evening, and place themſelves on a high Tree, and as ſoon as the Buffel comes, they ſhoot at him from thence. If they kill him, and there is no Danger below, they come down, and, aſſiſted by ſome of their Companions, carry off their Game; but if they have not hit the Buffel, they ſit ſtill, and keep out of danger; by which means they ſhoot ſeveral.

The Buffel's Fleſh here is very good, and by reaſon of the Meadow-Ground about the *Sant-Punt*, fat enough.

This is all that I could poſſibly obſerve in my ſixteen Days Stay here. Our Cruizer, after having taken in ſome Wood, came to us, and we ſailed together out of the River, and three Days after Anchor'd at *Cape Lopez di Gonſalvez*.

Which, as I have before inform'd you, is the uttermoſt Point of the Gulph of *Guinea*, ſituate in ſome few Minutes of *South* Latitude, and *Gabon* is exactly under the Equinoctial Line. A little *South* of *Cape Lopez*, begins the Country of *Angola*, which ſtretches ſeveral Degrees *Southward*.

This Point, or Cape, is as much or more viſited by Ships than *Gabon*; for moſt of the Ships laden with Slaves, come hither to ſtore themſelves with Water

and Wood, with both which it always abounds; and the Inhabitants have always Quantities of the latter ready cut, which they ſell ſo cheap, that we commonly don't give above a Barrel of Iron for a whole Fathom of it: And Water we have for fetching, from a very convenient Place near the Sea-ſide. We generally indeed pay for the Liberty of fetching Water, to the King, or he who calls himſelf ſo, three or four Knives, and a Bottle of Malt Spirits; but this is rather our Civility than any thing elſe, ſince there is no Ship ſo ſmall, as that it could not furniſh it ſelf with Water and Wood by force. But this would, in my Opinion, be very unreaſonable, ſince the Natives deſerve ſome Reward for their Trouble; and it would alſo render it very inconvenient to other Ships that come after us; for the *Negroes* finding we did not pay them, would not be very fond of ſelling more Wood; on which account, it is far the better way to content them with a Trifle.

The Trade here, as well as at *Rio de Gabon*, conſiſts in Elephants Teeth, Wax and Honey, with which it abounds; but by reaſon of the Multitude of Ships which daily touch here, not much is to be expected; yet one of our Yatchts this very Year dealt for betwixt three and four thouſand Weight of Elephants Teeth, as well as Wax; and at other times for larger Quantities.

At *Cape Lopez* there are a few Houſes, in which the Inhabitants live as long as any Ships are there; but their proper Dwelling-place is a little beyond this Point, upon a River which is called *Olibatte*. The principal Men, or Grandees, diſtinguiſh themſelves by the Names of King, Prince, and Admiral; tho', like thoſe of *Gabon*, they are obliged to be contented with the Name only. And indeed the Inhabitants of both Places agree ſo exactly, that I do not believe the leaſt Difference is obſervable betwixt their manner of Living, except only, that the latter are far more civil and converſable than the former.

I don't think it neceſſary to ſay any more concerning this Place, than that the Ships here meet with a good Road, if they are but ſo cautious as to avoid ſome Sand-Banks which are hereabouts, which yet are not dangerous in good Weather, ſince they are paſſable without Damage at High-Water, as we experienc'd.

I have already told you, that the River *Gabon* is plentifully ſtored with Fiſh; but this Place is enrich'd with ſuch prodigious Shoals, that our Cruizer one Morning caſting his Net, caught ſuch a vaſt Quantity as would have ſufficed ten Ships.

After having paſſed three Days at this Cape, we heav'd in our Anchor and ſet ſail, deſigning for the Iſle of *Annaboa*; but the ſtrong Tide, which at this time of the Year winds in a Serpentine manner towards the *North*, carried us below St. *Thomè*, an Iſland belonging to the *Portugueze*; which affords me an Opportunity to impart to you ſome Particulars concerning it, after having acquainted you, that tho' our Ships were cleaned, and in good ſailing Condition, we yet were driven above half a Degree *Northward*; but another of our Companies Ships, which I had laden with Slaves at *Fida*, and departed thence three Weeks before me, came the third time to Anchor with me at *Cape Lopez*, and told us, that he had been in one Degree and half *South* Latitude; but that the Vehemence of the Tide had (which is ſcarce credible) in one Night driven him thro' the Line exactly before *Gabon*.

The Iſle of St. *Thomè* (and not of St. *Thomas*, as ſome would have it, that being in *America* in the *Danes* Poſſeſſion) was formerly in our Hands; and we were obliged to quit it by the continual Treachery of the *Portugueze*, which fatigu'd our Men, and by the great Mortality which then afflicted them; in which ſo many of our Countrymen died, that this Iſland in *Europe* went by the Name of the *Dutch Church yard*.

The

The *Portugueze*, tho' more uſed to this ſcorching Air, prove at this very Time, that it is a very unwholſome Country, great Quantities of them dying, and very few living to a great Age.

The natural Reaſon of which, in my Opinion, ſeems to be firſt, the ſcorching Heat, which continues here the whole Year; for one Point of it being ſituate juſt under the Line, it is eaſy to conceive, that the greateſt part of the Year muſt be intolerably hot.

Secondly, that this Iſland chiefly conſiſts of Hills, the Valleys betwixt which are continually filled with a very thick and ſtinking Miſt, even in the very hotteſt time of the Day, which of neceſſity muſt condenſe and inflame the Air, and conſequently render it very unwholſome. And in the third Place, we may add the exceſſive Phlebotomy of the *Portugueze*, which they have recourſe to on the very leaſt Occaſion, ſome of 'em letting Blood above fifty times in a Year; and this it is, which, I believe, makes them look more like walking Ghoſts than Men: And this Practice, the longer continued, muſt neceſſarily the more weaken the Conſtitution; for the Nature of this Country is not ſuch, as to ſupply them with haſty Recruits of freſh Blood. Excepting what hath been obſerv'd, this is a pleaſant and fertile Iſland, abounding, according to the Report of the *Portugueze*, with freſh Rivers or Lakes, and good arable Lands, which yield Corn, Sugar and Cotton: Here are alſo ſeveral Earth-Fruits and Trees, beſides great Plenty of Cattle, larger and finer than on the *Gold Coaſt*. It cannot but have its Share of Terreſtrial Bleſſings, becauſe the *Romiſh* Clergy have two Convents here, according to the beſt of my Remembrance, filled with the Fraternities of St. *Peter* and St. *Auguſtin*: And here is alſo a Biſhop's See.

More need not be ſaid to prove this Iſland good, and proper to live in; for it is certainly true, that theſe ghoſtly Fathers never ſettle, where, beſides Souls Good, ſublunary Conveniences are not to be gain'd.

I ſhall now bid adieu to St. *Thomè*, with only acquainting you, that all Ships which by reaſon of contrary Wind cannot reach *Ilha del Principe*, put in here for Refreſhments.

Inſtead of *Annaboa*, being, as I have already told you, fallen below St. *Thomè*, we deſpaired of reaching it, becauſe it is more difficult to ſail to it from St. *Thomè*, than from *Cape Lopez*; but the Wind changing, and contrary to our Expectation, getting the Tide with us, we were ſo fortunate in two Days time as to Anchor before the famous Iſland of *Annaboa*.

This Iſland is viſited by a great Number of Ships, as well thoſe which have been Trading in *Guinea*, as thoſe bound for *Eaſt-India* and *Angola*. When the *Eaſt-India* Men fall below the Gulph of *Guinea* (for they, different from our Account, reckon the Gulph of *Guinea* to take in almoſt the whole Coaſt) they put in here; and the Ships bound for *Angola* touch here, it being almoſt in their way.

Annaboa is ſo prodigiouſly ſtock'd with Cattle and Fruit, that it far exceeds St. *Thomè* and *Prince's Iſland* in both; tho' 'tis much ſmaller, and indeed not above half the Circuit of either of them. Like *St. Thomè*, it is almoſt always cover'd with a thick Miſt; but if we may believe the *Portugueze*, not ſo unwholſome. But why it is more healthful, I ſhall not preſume to determine; for the Air is almoſt the ſame, *Annaboa* being but about one Degree and a half more *South*.

The Land is here full as high as at St. *Thomè*; and in the higheſt Place of it, according to the Report of the *Portugueze*, is a Lake of freſh and very good Water, about which the Air is as cold as the ſevereſt Autumns in *Holland*: But who knows whether this be true?

The *Portugueze* have tilled the Plains to half way up the Hills, for ſo far the Ground is good; but taking a View of this Iſland from below, it ſeems very dry and barren; notwithſtanding which, it is all over planted

planted with Fruit-Trees, *viz.* Cocoes, Oranges, Lemons, Bakovens, Banana's, Palm-Trees, and ſeveral others, whoſe Fruits are all plentiful and cheap. One hundred Coco-Nuts are ſold for a Rixdollar, a thouſand Oranges or Lemons at the ſame Rate; and the other Fruits in Proportion.

Hogs, Sheep, Goats, Chickens, *&c.* are to be bought for almoſt nothing, conſidering that we have them for all manner of old traſh Cloaths of Linnen and Woollen. In ſhort, here is the true *Amalthea* or *Cornucopia*, of which the Ancients have ſaid ſo many fine Things.

The Inhabitants of this Iſland are Black, and but a ſort of half Chriſtians, tho' they bear the Name of Chriſtians; for if they can but read a *Pater-Noſter* and *Ave-Maria*, confeſs to the Prieſt, and bring ſome Offerings with them, they paſs for good Chriſtians.

The White *Portugueze* of this Iſland eſteem them Slaves, by reaſon that they are the Deſcendants of thoſe Slaves which they ſet on this Iſland: They are all of them, without any Exception, Thieves and Rogues, that will injure and defraud no Man more than they can. The Women are all common publick Whores, which allure and miſlead the Sailors, and except a very few, are monſtrous ugly and ill-favour'd, as Monſieur *Focquenbrog* has well obſerv'd it.

The Government of theſe People is entruſted in the Hands of a White *Portugueze*, who is honour'd with the illuſtrious Name of *Governador*.

He who was honour'd with this high Poſt in my Time, was ſuch a great Don, that if I had been charitable enough to beſtow the Alms of a Crown upon him, he would have made no Difficulty of receiving it, nor thought it an Affront to his honourable Charge, or the Grandeur of his Nation.

His Subjects alſo ſtood in ſuch Awe of him, that if I had but deſir'd them, they would certainly have broken his Head, and have deliver'd the Iſland into our Poſſeſſion: For this *Don* being appointed by a *Portugueze* Gentleman, to whom this Iſland belongs,

as Rent-gatherer in his Name, to collect a Third of all the Inhabitants Cattel, Fruit, and Income; in order to ſecure ſomewhat for himſelf, he very fairly fleeces the Inhabitants of a compleat Half, which renders him ſo hated by his Black Subjects, that they would very willingly be releaſed from their Yoke, and deliver the Iſland to another Nation.

But it would not indeed be ſerviceable to any Nation, without all its Black Inhabitants were tranſported thence; for whilſt they ſtay there, on account of the leaſt Difference with the Poſſeſſors, they would fly to the Hilly part of the Iſland, which is ſufficiently inacceſſible to the *Europeans*, and from thence ſo gall them, that they would be oblig'd to abandon it; as it happen'd to us, when we formerly were in Poſſeſſion of it; for we left it on no other Account.

Beſides the *Governador*, I found here alſo two White Prieſts, who were endowed with no other Qualities than the profound Ignorance and Stupidity of the meaneſt of their Neighbours, except only (which is indeed ſomething uncommon) that they could drink as much Brandy as I could Wine, or other Liquor.

Their Wiſdom was lodged in their *Capuchin's Cap*. I cannot indeed tell whether they could read or write, ſince I did not ſee one Book they had, nor would they produce one, tho' I aſked the Favour; perhaps, that it might not be defiled with my heretical Fingers.

They invited us to come and ſee their Churches, which we did, and found them very handſome, and large enough for four times the Number of Inhabitants on the Iſland: Before we enter'd their Churches, we were all over beſprinkled with Holy Water; from which I conclude, that it is not very dear here.

They deſired a Bottle of Wine of me to celebrate their Maſs withal, which I gave them; and they thereupon promiſed me (tho' unaſked) that they would ſay a Maſs for my happy Voyage; after which I took Leave of 'em.

We

We ſaw here ſome ſmall Pieces of Cannon, and aſking where they got them, we were inform'd they belong'd to a ſmall *French* Pyrate, which ſtranded there about ten Days before; the Captain of which, with two of his Men, was then upon the Iſland.

Theſe Pyrates had robb'd the *Gold Coaſt* of ſome Gold, Slaves, and Elephants Teeth; but two Days before our Arrival here, the *Sloter-Galley*, an *Engliſh* Ship, commanded by *Thomas Kent*, had ſet ſail from hence, having made an Agreement with theſe Pyrates, in Conſideration of a Part of their Prey to be given to the Captain, to carry them and all their Booty to the *French* Iſlands. The Pyrates depending on this Contract, had brought all their Goods on Board Captain *Kent*, and all the Men, except the Captain and two more, follow'd, who deſign'd to have gone on Board the laſt Day of the Galley's Stay here; but as they were coming, were welcom'd with a few Muſket-ſhot, and charged, if they valued their Lives, to return back; which they were oblig'd to do, and had the Satisfaction of ſeeing Captain *Kent* haul up his Anchors, and ſet Sail with all their Goods.

What think you, Sir, Were not theſe Villains right ſerved? Indeed, I think they were; and had it been my good Fortune to meet with them, I ſhould not have given them any better Treatment.

After having ſtaid here a few Days to refreſh, purſuant to the Director General's Leave, we ſteered our Courſe towards *Elmina*, ſailing continually along the Line, without inclining one Degree towards the *South* or *North*. I expected to have met with a violent Heat here; but on the contrary, found it ſo cold, that tho' well clad, I could ſcarce bear the Cold. The Sailors, who commonly are not moved at a Trifle, alſo cloath'd themſelves very thick. Expreſſing my Surprize hereat, the Captain told me, that about this time of the Year (being *September*) it was almoſt ſo cold here, notwithſtanding the Sun in that Month paſſes the Line, and

muſt

muſt be exactly over our Heads; but the Caſe lies here, we have always thick Weather, and a ſtiff Gale, which prevents our feeling the Heat of the Sun.

After ſeveral Days ſailing forwards in this manner, gueſſing that we were advanc'd high enough to make the Coaſt, we ſteered directly Landwards, and got ſight of Land about the *Quaqua* Coaſt; but our Orders running to ſtay no where, we ſailed along by the Shore, proceeding on our Voyage to *Aſſinee*, which the *French*, ſome time paſt, took Poſſeſſion of; and that in ſuch a diverting manner, that I cannot help imparting it to you. The Author of the *European Mercury* for the Year 1701, obliges us with the following Relation of the converting of a *Mooriſh* King to the Chriſtian Faith, in theſe Words.

Here is another Pagan Prince brought over to the Chriſtian Faith, namely, Lewis Hannibal, *King of* Syria, (which they miſtake for *Aſſinee*) *on the* Gold Coaſt *of* Africa, *who, after being a long time inſtructed in the Chriſtian Principles, and baptized by the Biſhop of* Meaux, *the King being his Godfather, received the Sacrament of the* Lord's *Supper, on the 27th of* February, *from the Cardinal* de Noailles, *and offered at the ſame time a Picture to the Bleſſed Virgin, to whoſe Protection he ſubmitted his Territories, having made a Vow at his Return thither, to uſe his utmoſt Endeavours towards the Converſion of his Subjects. This* Mooriſh *Prince departed on the 24th of this Month, in order to embark at* Port Lewis, *and be convoy'd home by two or three Men of War, under the Command of the Chevalier* Damon.

Thus far runs our abovemention'd Relation. Now it is my Taſk to give you a ſhort Account of the Extraction of this pretended King, and to acquaint you with what happen'd afterwards.

Some Years paſt the *French* were accuſtom'd to ſeize all the *Negroes* that came on Board them, and ſell

ſell them into the *Weſt-Indies* for Slaves; amongſt which happen'd to be the aforeſaid *Lewis Hannibal*, chriſten'd by the *French*; but finding him endow'd with a more ſprightly Genius than his Countrymen, inſtead of ſelling, they brought him to the *French* Court, where this Impoſtor pretended to be Son and Heir apparent to the King of *Aſſinee*; by which means he ſo inſinuated himſelf into the good Opinion of the Court, that the King made him ſeveral very rich Preſents, and ſent him back to his own Country in the manner above related; but upon his Arrival upon the Coaſt, he was diſcover'd to be only the Slave of a *Caboceer* of *Aſſinee*; to whom, ſhortly after his Arrival, he returned; and, as I am credibly inform'd, inſtead of converting his Subjects to Chriſtianity, is himſelf return'd to Pagapiſm.

You may eaſily gueſs at the Reſentments of the *French* Court, after being ſo ridiculouſly bubbled by a *Negro* Slave; if you conſider that by this means they have loſt their Aim, which was to get Footing on the *Gold Coaſt*; and beſides, that the pious Intention of his moſt Chriſtian Majeſty, to convert a Heathen Prince, and eſtabliſh him on his Throne, were fruſtrated; the Cardinal *de Noailles* and the Biſhop of *Meaux*, laboured in vain: And in ſhort, the whole *French* Court was diſappointed of its Expectation.

By this, Sir, you may ſee, that as ſtupid as the *Negroes* are, yet ſome amongſt them are able to delude ſuch a wiſe Court as that of *France*; which I doubt not but long e'er this has repented of its Credulity, and a thouſand times curſed the pretended King of *Syria*: But to leave the *French* in their Reſentments, and purſue our Voyage.

Sailing by *Aſſinee*, we touched on the *Gold Coaſt*, where our Companion the Cruiſer, called the *Beſchermer*, or Protector, commanded by Captain *Hinken*, found a *Zealand* Interloper, called the *Great Apollo*, betwixt

betwixt the Shore and the *Brandenburg*-Fort; which he vigorouſly attack'd, and after a ſhort, but warm Reſiſtance, took and brought her as good Prize to *Elmina*.

This, Sir, is the End of my Voyage, and will alſo be the laſt Letter that I ſhall write to you concerning the State of *Guinea*. What you have farther to expect from me, is, as I have already told you, the Reſult of others Obſervations. I beg your Approbation of the Contents of this, and all my paſt, aſſuring you, I have written nothing to you but real Truth, digeſted from my own Obſervation. If I am ſo happy as to pleaſe you in this Attempt, I ſhall be ſo far from thinking my Labour loſt, that I ſhall conclude it doubly rewarded.

Theſe, Sir, are the ſincere Aſſeverations of one that never will omit any thing which can render you an agreeable Service; but is now and ſhall ever be inceſſantly ambitious of the honourable Name of,

Your Hearty Humble Servant,

W. BOSMAN.

The End of the Author's laſt Letter.

A De-

A Deſcription of *Rio Formoſa*, or the River of *BENIN*; being the Firſt Supplemental, or the One and Twentieth LETTER.

Containing a Deſcription of Rio Formoſa, *or the River of* Benin. *The great Number of its Branches. The Trading-Place and Church of the* Portugueze. *The King of* Benin's *great Opinion of himſelf. Our ordinary Trading-place. The Pirates of* Uſa. *The Moraſs and Floating-Land in and about the River, which is very pleaſant, but unwholſome; and the Reaſon why. The great Mortality of our Men on Shipboard. The Raſhneſs of five Mariners, and a remarkable Event which follow'd it. The Country is very even and full of Trees. Who are the King of* Benin's *Vaſſals. The King's Slave an honourable Name.* Benin *not very populous. The three principal Trading-Places, their Names, Conſtitutions, and Governors. Beſides which, a fourth Trading-place, where one of our chiefeſt Commanders or Factors was kill'd. On which account a double Revenge was taken. The* Benin *Inhabitants generally good-natur'd, civil, and very converſible People; who are not to be treated forcibly, but gently: Are very pertinacious in their old Cuſtoms. Who are the Managers of their Trade. They are very civil to Strangers, but treacherous to each other. Their Governors very covetous. There are three Eſtates beſides the King; concerning the firſt, and their Power: Of the ſecond, their Marks of Honour or Knighthood, the loſs of which is puniſh'd with Death; of which ſome Examples. The Third State. The manual Arts and Trades of the Commonalty. The Rich live very well, and are very charitable to the Poor. The Habits of the* Negroes *of both Sexes. Each Perſon marries as many Wives as he is able to keep. The Manner of their Marriage. The Husbands very jealous of their Wives, of which they are abſolute Maſters. Three ſorts of Puniſhments for Adultery. Of pregnant Women and their Delivery. The Male Infants belong to the King. Both Male and Female are circumcis'd. The Groaning-Treat. Twins eſteemed a good Omen, except at* Arebo: *The Cruelty of whoſe Inhabitants on that Occaſion, deſcrib'd and confirm'd by ſome Inſtances. A Sacred Grove, and their Opinions concerning it. They are very prolifick. Menſtruous Women eſteemed unclean. The* Negroes *here not ſo much afraid of Death as others. Their Remedies in caſe of Sickneſs. Phyſicians not much valued, and how treated. Who hath the Right of Inheritance, and in what Caſes the King is Heir. Common Whores: Their Government. Puniſhment of Thievery, to which they are not much addicted. The Puniſhments of Murder, and their Diſtinctions concerning that Crime. Five ſorts of Oaths. How Fines are diſtributed. Their Muſical Inſtruments; they Dance very well to the Harp. Are great Gameſters. Their Religious*

ligion very confuſed; each particular Perſon hath his ſeparate Prieſt. Their Notion of the Deity, and their Ratiocinations on that Subject. They worſhip Idols, and the Devil in the ſame Shape. Apparitions of Spirits. Daily and Annual Offerings. Their Sentiments concerning a future Life. Multiplicity of Idols, and their Feſtivals. Which is their greateſt Feſtival. Their Sabbath. They celebrate the Times of the Death of their Parents. Their Diviſion of Time. Their Wars, and Confuſion therein. They are great Cowards. Their Weapons, all ſorts of Game, and wild Quadrupeds. Great Baboons which fall upon Men. Great Plenty of feather'd Kind: But not ſuch Stores of Fiſh; yet great Quantities of Terrene and Arboriferous Fruits. Of ſeveral Dying Ingredients. The King's Revenue, wherein it conſiſts. A Deſcription of the Town of Benin, *which is very long, and well built. Strangers not allowed there. Of the Grandees which follow the Court. Natives cannot be ſold for Slaves, nor is it allow'd to Tranſport any out of the Kingdom as ſuch, tho' Strangers. The Trades and Employments of the Commonalty. Their Tradeſmen. Very fine Streets in the City. Slavery of the Women, which are fond of all* Europeans, *except the* Portugueze. *A large Deſcription of the King's Court, and the* Coral-*Feaſt, at which the King is preſent. The Author's Audience of the King. His Portraicture. The War betwixt* Are de Rou *and the King, which hath ruin'd the City of* Benin, *which is at preſent waſte and deſolate. Concluſion of this Letter.*

SIR,

IN Obedience to your Orders, this contains a Deſcription of the River of *Benin*. I dare not aſſure you of your expected Satisfaction; but would fain hope that my Endeavours, however imperfect, being the utmoſt I can do, may meet with your favourable Reception.

About fifty Miles *Eaſt* of *Ardra*, are ſituate the Cape and River of *Formoſa*, otherways called *Benin*, from the Kingdom of *Great Benin*, with which it is encompaſs'd.

This River ſhews it ſelf very plainly, if entred from the *Weſt*; for from *Ardra* the Land is even and woody: The *Weſt* Point is much higher, and looks like a Rock with the Top cut off; but the *Eaſt* Point is low and flat Land: Its Mouth is about a Mile wide; but ſailing farther up, is yet wider in ſome Places, and narrower in others.

This

This River ſprouts it ſelf into innumerable Branches; ſome of which are ſo wide, that they very well deſerve the Name of Rivers; and the Banks of each of them are inhabited by a particular Nation, govern'd by its own King.

The Multitude of its Branches render the ſailing up this River ſo difficult, that a Pilot is abſolutely neceſſary.

About a Mile and a half from its Mouth, there are two Branches about half a Mile from each other; upon one of which the *Portugueze* have a Lodge and Church at the Town of *Awerri*, which is govern'd by its particular and independent King, who doth not treat the King of *Great Benin* any otherwiſe than as his Neighbour and Ally: Tho' that vain Prince ſhews no Marks of Eſteem for him, nor any other Potentates, imagining, that if he is not the greateſt King in the whole, yet indiſputably in the *Guinean* World: That Part of it that is ſituate above one hundred Miles beyond his own Territories, being as little known to him as the large Remainder of the Globe.

The common Trading-Place is here call'd *Arebo*, ſituate above ſixty Miles above the River's Mouth. So far, and yet farther our Ships may very conveniently come; in their Paſſage ſailing by hundreds of Branches of this River, beſides Creeks, ſome of which are very wide.

What I have already hinted, is ſufficient to give you an Idea of the Breadth of this River; but its Length and Source I have not been able to diſcover, no *Negro* being able to give me an exact Account of it: But I believe its Branches extend into all the Circumjacent Countries; for I have ſeen ſeveral Men that came from *Ardra*, *Calbary*, and ſeveral other Places, in order to Trade, which were taken on this River by the Robbers, and ſold for Slaves.

Theſe Robbers, or Pyrates, live juſt at the Mouth of the River, and are called the Pyrates of *Uſa*: They are very poor, and live only upon Robbery; they ſail hence

hence to all Parts of this River, and ſeize all that lights in their way, whether Men, Beaſts, or Goods; all which they ſell to the firſt that come hither, for Victuals, with which they are not at all provided.

The *Portugueze* inform'd me, that here was a Land-Road which reached to *Calbary*, and one much more commodious by Water; that it was eaſy with a Canoe to get into the circumjacent Rivers, *viz. Lagos*, *Elrei*, *Camarones*, and ſeveral others, beſides the River *Volta*; which laſt, I can ſcarce believe, it being utterly improbable; but as to the former Rivers, they are ſo near the other, that it may be eaſily done.

Several Miles upwards from the Mouth of the River the Land is every where low and moraſſy, and its Banks all along adorn'd with great Numbers of high and low Trees, and the Country all about it divided into Iſlands by the Multiplicity of its Branches; beſides which, here are ſeveral ſorts of Floating-Iſles, or Lands covered with Reed, which are driven by the Winds, or Travadoes, from one Place to another, by which means they often happen in our way, and oblige us to ſteer a different Courſe; on which Occaſions, Pilots or Guides are very convenient.

The River it ſelf is very pleaſant, but very unwholſome, as moſt of the Rivers on the Coaſt ſeem to be naturally; which I am apt to think, is occaſion'd by the continual contagious Exhalations which hover about them; more eſpecially thoſe in low Ground and Moraſſes.

To which may be added another, and not leſs Plague: The innumerable Millions of Gnats which the *Portugueze* call Muſquito's; for the Land, as I have already told you, being very woody, is inſupportably peſter'd with theſe Vermin, eſpecially in the Nights, when they attack us in whole Legions, and ſting ſo ſeverely, that ſeveral Perſons have been ſo marked with Puſtules, that it was impoſſible to know them.

This

This Torment, which deprives us of our natural Reſt, heighten'd by the Unwholſomneſs of the Climate, continually occaſions a great Mortality amongſt our Men. You very well know, that this is my ſecond Voyage to this River; and that the firſt time I was here, we loſt half our Men, and at preſent the Number of our dead on Board is not leſs, and the Remainder are moſt of them ſick, which ſtrikes ſuch a general Terror into the Sailors, that the boldeſt of them is afraid of his Life.

Five of our Sailors were ſo raſhly impious, as to throw Dice who ſhould die or live to come out of this River: They over-perſuaded my eldeſt Servant to throw for his Chance with them; and the higheſt Caſt being eſteemed ſafeſt, he threw Eleven.

And it is really remarkable, that this Lad is yet alive; but the other Five died all in the River of *Benin*.

Bating the ſaid Contagion of the Climate, this is a very deſirable Place of Trade, by reaſon of the Pleaſantneſs of the River and adjacent Country, which is very even Ground, without Hills, and yet riſes by gentle Degrees, which affords the moſt agreeable Proſpect in the World; which is yet improv'd by the Multitude of Trees, which ſtand ſo regular, as if they were deſignedly planted in that Order.

The Inhabitants of this River and the neighbouring Country have ſeveral Princes; and indeed, each ſmall Nation is govern'd by his own King, tho' all of them are Vaſſals to the King of *Benin*, except thoſe of *Awerri*, where the *Portugueze* live, and the Pirates of *Uſſa*, both of whom would never yet ſubmit to his Yoke.

They are all Freemen, notwithſtanding which, they are treated as Slaves by their King; and are ſo far from taking it for an Unhappineſs, that the Title of the King's Slave is a diſtinguiſhing Mark of Honour amongſt them.

Tho' here is a prodigious Number of People, yet in Proportion to the Extent of Land, and upon the Comparison with *Ardra*, this Country is not populous. The Towns are widely distant from each other, as well those near the River as farther Inland.

There are at present three principal Towns where we Trade, and whither all the neighbouring Inland *Negroes* resort, especially when we have cast Anchor there.

The first of these Villages is *Boededoe*, containing about fifty Houses or Cottages, built with Reed and Leaves. It is govern'd by a Viceroy, and some Grandees appointed him, who, under the King, and in his Name, govern the whole District of Land; but their Authority doth not extend beyond Things of small Importance, as Civil Causes, and the raising Taxes for the King; but if any thing considerable happens, or any capital Crime is committed, they are not permitted to decide it, but must send to Court, and wait their Orders.

Arebo, the second Village, which is situate much farther up the River, is a fine large oblong Town, indifferently well-furnish'd with Houses and People. The Houses are much larger than at *Boededoe*, tho' built in the same manner: This Place and its dependant Country is, as well as the former, govern'd by a Viceroy.

Some Years past, here were two Lodges or Factories, one of which belong'd to the *English*, and the other to our Company; each of them had their particular Factors and Trustees, called in *Portugueze* Mercadors and Fiadors, the last of which are here but a sort of Brokers: But the *English* not having traded here for many Years, their Lodge is fallen down and demolished, and their Factors and Brokers incorporated with ours.

Agatton, the third Village, was formerly a considerable Trading Place, but hath suffered so much by the Wars, that it lies in a manner waste at present. It is

situate

ſituate on a ſmall Hill in the River, juſt joined to the firm Land.

The remaining Ruins diſcover it to have been a very large Village, much more agreeable and healthful than the others are; for which Reaſon, the *Negroes* employ their utmoſt Diligence in the rebuilding of it: It is environ'd with all ſorts of Fruit-Trees.

Hereabouts are ſeveral ſmall Villages, whoſe Inhabitants come hither at every conſiderable Market, which is held here for five Days. A Day's Journey by Land from *Agatton* is the City or Village of *Great Benin*, the Reſidence of the King: But more of this hereafter.

I muſt not here omit a certain Village, where we formerly Traded, which is called *Meiborg*, probably borrowing its Name from that of one of our Factors.

Several Years paſt, our Company had a conſiderable Factory, and ſome Servants here: Their laſt Factor here was *N. Beeldſynder*, who made himſelf to be hated by the Natives, by reaſon of his Brutality.

Beſides which, he caſt a laſcivious Eye on one of the *Negro* Governor's Wives, which he raviſh'd, and thereby ſo enrag'd her injur'd Huſband, that he reſolv'd to take his utmoſt Satisfaction of *Beeldſynder*, and came againſt him with a Party of armed Men, deſigning to have his Life; but he defending himſelf in his Flight, narrowly eſcaped on Board one of our Ships, which then lay there; but was withal dangerouſly wounded: He was no ſooner come on Board, than he ſailed out of the Sight of his Purſuers; but one of his Wounds proved ſo fatal, that thro' the Unſkilfulneſs of the Surgeon, he died of it.

Mr. *N. N.* who was then the Company's Director-General on the Coaſt, and was not fully inform'd of the Merits of the Cauſe, did not let his Death paſs unreveng'd, but immediately ſent a Yatcht, reinforced with *Elmina* Soldiers, to *Benin*, with ſtrict Orders to take the utmoſt Revenge for the Murther or Maſſacre,

as it was termed: Theſe Soldiers ſo rigorouſly executed, or perhaps ſtretched their Commiſſion, that they killed or took Priſoners every Perſon of the Village that could not make their Eſcape.

The King of *Great Benin* being informed of this, and the Author of the Maſſacre, was not content with the Revenge which our Director had taken, but commanded the Perſon who was the Occaſioner of the Maſſacre, to come to him; and tho' he had defended the Honour of his Family, and was conſequently very excuſable, yet the King cauſed him and his whole Race, to the third and fourth Generation, to be cut to pieces; which Cruelty was executed, in order to juſtify himſelf, not only with reſpect to the Action, but alſo the very Knowledge of it.

The dead Corps of theſe miſerable Wretches were thrown upon the Dunghill as a Spectacle, to be devour'd by the wild Beaſts; and their Houſes were raz'd to the Ground, with ſtrict Orders that they ſhould never be rebuilt. We finding the King ſo zealouſly intereſted for us, have ever ſince continued our Trade there.

The Inhabitants of *Great Benin* are generally good-natur'd, and very civil, from whom it is eaſy to obtain whatever we deſire by ſoft Means. If we make them liberal Preſents, they will endeavour to recompence them doubly; and if we want any thing, and aſk it of them, they very ſeldom deny us, tho' they have occaſion for it themſelves.

But they are ſo far in the right, to expect that their Courteſy ſhould be repaid with Civility, and not with Arrogance or Rudeneſs; for to think of forcing any thing from them, is to diſpute with the Moon.

They are very prompt in Buſineſs, and will not ſuffer any of their ancient Cuſtoms to be aboliſh'd; in which, if we comply with them, they are very eaſy to deal with, and will not be wanting in any thing on their Part requiſite to a good Agreement.

But

But what is worſt of all is, that they are very tedious in Dealing. Many times they have a Stock of Elephants Teeth by them, which we are generally eight or ten Days before we can agree with them for; but this is managed with ſo many ceremonious Civilities, that it is impoſſible to be angry with them.

Another Inconvenience, which really deſerves Complaint, is, that at our Arrival here, we are obliged to truſt them with Goods to make Paans or Cloaths of; for the Payment of which we frequently ſtay ſo long, that by reaſon of the Advancement of the Seaſon, the Conſumption of our Proviſions, and the Sickneſs or Mortality of our Men, we are obliged to depart without our Money; but on the other hand, the next time we come hither, we are ſure to be honeſtly paid the whole.

The Perſons which treat with us on their behalf, are ſuch as are thereto appointed by the Government, and are called by the above-mention'd Names of Mercadors and Fiadors; and theſe are the only Merchants with which we deal: This Cuſtom having obtained, by reaſon that theſe Factors can ſpeak a miſerable ſort of *Portugueze*, which qualifies them to talk with us. This is their only Excellency, without which they would be look'd on as the very Scum of their Countrymen, and not thought worthy a Name amongſt them.

At our Arrival here, we are obliged to pay ſome ſorts of Cuſtoms to theſe Brokers and the Governors, which are ſo inconſiderable, that they are hardly worth mentioning.

The Natives here ſeem very civil to each other, and omit no Opportunity of offering their mutual Services: But this is bare Compliment; for they will not truſt one another, but are jealouſly prudent, and very reſerv'd, eſpecially in the Management of their Trade, which they diſpatch with utmoſt Secrecy, out of fear of being repreſented as great Traders to their Governors; who, upon ſuch a Diſcovery, would cer-

tainly accuſe them of ſome Crime or other, in order to poſſeſs themſelves, tho' never ſo unjuſtly, of the Effects of theſe rich Merchants: And here, as well as every where elſe, 'tis eaſy to find a Stick to beat a Dog withal; wherefore thoſe who are out of Power, and have no Share in the Government, always pretend to be poorer than they really are, in order to eſcape the rapacious Hands of their Superiors. This obliges them all to a cunning ſort of mutual Civility, in order to avoid Accuſers; and their Profeſſions are very rarely ſincere, but only feigned.

I have obſerved here three States, beſides the King, who governs abſolutely, his Will being a Law and Bridle to his Subjects, which none of them dare oppoſe.

Next him, the firſt and higheſt State is compoſed of three Perſons, called here Great Lords, or Great Men, which are always near the King's Perſon; and any Perſon that wants to apply to his Majeſty, is obliged to addreſs himſelf firſt to them, and they undertake to acquaint him with it, and return his Anſwer: But they are ſure to inform him only of what they pleaſe themſelves, and conſequently in the King's Name they act as they think fit; ſo that in reality the whole Government depends ſolely on them; which may the more eaſily happen, becauſe, except a few, no Perſons are admitted into the King's Preſence, much leſs allow'd to ſpeak with him.

The ſecond State or Rank is compoſed of thoſe which are here call'd *Are de Roe*, or Street-Kings; ſome of which preſide over the Commonalty, and others over the Slaves; ſome over Military Affairs, others over the Affairs relating to Cattle and the Fruits of the Earth, *&c.* And indeed, here is a particular Superviſor over every thing that can be thought of.

Out of the Number of theſe *Are de Roes* are choſen the Viceroys and Governors of the Countries which are ſubject to the King: Theſe are all under the Command

mand of, and reſponſible to the three Great Men on all Occaſions.

They obtain theſe honourable Poſts by the Recommendation of theſe three Lords; and the King, as an Enſign of this Honour, preſents each of them with a String of Coral, that being equivalent to the Arms of an Order of Knighthood: This String they are obliged to wear about their Necks, without ever daring to put it off on any Account whatever.

For if they are ſo unhappy as to loſe it, or careleſly ſuffer it to be ſtolen, they are *ipſo facto* irreprievably condemn'd to die.

For the Confirmation of which, I can give you two Inſtances, to one of which I was witneſs, *viz.* A *Negro*, who thro' Inadvertency had ſuffer'd this Chain to be ſtolen from him, and without delay was executed; as was alſo the other who acknowledg'd himſelf guilty of the ſaid Robbery, beſides three more which were privy to it, and did not timely diſcover it: Thus five Men were put to Death for a Chain of Coral, that was not intrinſically worth Two-pence.

The ſecond Inſtance happen'd about the Year 1700, and was ſomewhat more extraordinary. At that time there lay near me before the Village of *Boededoe*, two *Portugueze* Ships or Barks, one of which departed before us; but the other was obliged to ſtay a Month or two after me, in order to get in his Debts; which coming in very ſlowly, the Captain reſolv'd to cauſe a Fiador, that was his greateſt Debtor, to be arreſted in his Ship; but when he attempted it, the other reſiſted it, and endeavour'd to eſcape; and during the Scuffle with the Sailors, the Pilot caught hold of his Chain of Coral, broke it in pieces, and threw it over-board, which ſo diſpirited the Fiador, that he let go his Hold, and ſurrendred himſelf immediately: But ſome time after, finding the Pilot aſleep, and having gotten a Blunderbuſs, he ſhot him thro' the Head, and thus oblig'd him to exchange his natural, for a more laſting Sleep; with which the *Negro* was not yet ſatisfy'd,

but afterwards wounded the dead Body in ſeveral Places, and then threw away his Knife, adding, *That he had now taken his Revenge; and that it was perfectly indifferent to him what they did with him:* For, (continues he) *when my Coral was thrown over-board, I was a dead Man; and at preſent I am in the ſame Condition.* The *Portugueze* did not venture to puniſh him, but deliver'd him to the Governor of the Place, who diſpatch'd him to the King; and the Bark departing, his Majeſty committed him to cloſe Priſon, in order to puniſh him very ſeverely in the Preſence of the next *Portugueze* that ſhould come thither.

This very Year I ſaw the *Negro*, and juſt upon my Departure, two *Portugueze* Ships came with Orders to demand Juſtice for their murder'd Pilot: How they ſucceeded, I cannot ſay, becauſe I left that Place immediately after; but that it coſt the *Negro* his Life, is undeniable.

The King keeps theſe Corals in his own Poſſeſſion; and the counterfeiting, or having any of them in Poſſeſſion without his Grant, is puniſhed with Death: They are made of a ſort of pale red coctile Earth or Stone, and very well glazed, and are very like ſpeckled red Marble.

From the laſt Relation, it is eaſy to infer, that the Fiadors are the third Rank or State of this Country; for no Perſon is permitted to wear this Coral, unleſs honour'd by the King with ſome Poſt; ſince, as I have already told you, they can have it only from the King.

Beſides the Fiadors, under the ſame Rank are alſo reckon'd the Mercadors, or Merchants; Fulladors, or Interceſſors; the Veilles, or Elders; all which are diſtinguiſh'd by the above-mention'd Mark of Honour.

And beſides theſe Three, I know of no other Offices or Dignities; wherefore the Commonalty take place next, very few of which are laborious or induſtrious, unleſs it be thoſe who are wretched poor; the others laying the whole Burthen of their Work on their Wives

Wives and Slaves, whether it be tilling the Ground, ſpinning of Cotton, weaving of Cloaths, or any other Handicraft; whilſt they, if they have but the leaſt Stock, apply themſelves to Merchandize alone. Here are very few Manual Arts, beſides Weaving, practis'd or underſtood. The chief Workmen here, are either Smiths, Carpenters, or Leather-Dreſſers; but all their Workmanſhip is ſo very clumſy, that a Boy that has been but one Month learning in *Europe* would outdo them.

The Inhabitants of this Country, if poſſeſſed of any Riches, eat and drink very well; that is to ſay, of the beſt. The common Diet of the Rich is Beef, Mutton or Chickens, and Jammes for their Bread; which, after they have boiled, they beat very fine, in order to make Cakes of it: They frequently treat one another, and impart a Portion of their Superfluity to the Neceſſitous.

The meaner Sort content themſelves with ſmoak'd or dry'd Fiſh; which, if ſalted, is very like what we in *Europe* call Raſ or Reekel: Their Bread is alſo Jammes, Banana's and Beans; their Drink Water, and *Pardon*-Wine, which is none of the beſt. The richer Sort drink Water, and Brandy when they can get it.

The King, the Great Lords, and every Governor, who is but indifferently rich, ſubſiſt ſeveral Poor at their Place of Reſidence on their Charity, employing thoſe who are fit for any Work, in order to help them to a Maintenance; and the reſt they keep for God's ſake, and to obtain the Character of being charitable; ſo that here are no Beggars: And this neceſſary Care ſucceeds ſo well, that we do not ſee many remarkably poor amongſt them.

They are very liberal in all mutual Preſents of all ſorts of Goods, and they give the *Europeans* prodigious Quantities of refreſhing Proviſions, and more than they really want; nay, ſome in this Particular give beyond their Ability, only in order to acquire a good Reputation amongſt Strangers.

The

The Habit of the *Negroes* here is neat, ornamental, and much more magnificent than that of the *Negroes* of the *Gold Coaſt*. The Rich amongſt them wear firſt a white Callico, or Cotton Cloth, about one Yard long, and half ſo broad, which ſerves them as Drawers; over that they wear a finer white Cotton Dreſs, that is commonly about ſixteen or twenty Yards long, which they very ornamentally pleat in the middle, caſting over it a Scarf of about a Yard long, and two Spans broad, the end of which is adorn'd with Fringe or Lace, which is ſomewhat like the Female *Negroes* on the *Gold Coaſt*: The upper Part of their Body is moſtly naked. Theſe are their Cloaths in which they appear Abroad; but at Home they wear only a coarſe Paan inſtead of Drawers, covered with a great painted Cloth woven here, which they wear like a Cloak.

The mean Sort go thus cloathed, but the Stuff they wear is much coarſer; and as to fine or coarſe, each Perſon is govern'd by his Circumſtances.

The Wives of the Great Lords wear Callico Paans woven in this Country, which are very fine, and very beautifully checquer'd with ſeveral Colours: Theſe Paans or Cloaths are not very long, and are buckled together like thoſe which are wore at *Fida*; but with this Difference, that as the *Fidaſe* Paan is open before, this, on the contray, is open behind, or on one ſide, and covered before. The upper Part of their Body is covered with a beautiful Cloth of about a Yard long, inſtead of a Veil, like that which the Women wear on the *Gold Coaſt*: Their Necks are adorn'd with Neck-laces of Coral, very agreeably diſpoſed or plaited; their Arms are dreſſed up with with bright Copper or Iron Arm-Rings; as are alſo the Legs of ſome of them, and their Fingers are as thick crowded with Copper Rings as they can poſſibly wear them.

Thus ſet out, Sir, they look pretty tolerable, and may paſs for ſuch for want of better.

The

The meaner ſort of Women, as well as the Men of the ſame Condition, differ from the Rich only in the goodneſs of their Cloaths.

Almoſt all the Children go naked; the Boys till they are ten or twelve Years old, and the Girls till Nature diſcovers their Maturity; till then they wear nothing but ſome Strings of Coral twiſted about their Middles, which is not ſufficient to hide their Nudities.

The Men don't curl or adorn their Hair, but content themſelves with letting it grow in its natural Poſture, except buckling it in two or three Places, in order to hang a great Coral to it; but the Womens Hair is very artificially turned up into great and ſmall Buckles, and divided on the Crown of the Head, like a Cock's Comb inverted, by which means the ſmall Curls are placed in exact Order. Some divide their Hair into twenty Plaits and Curls, according as it happens to be either thick or thin. Some oil it with the Oil which they roaſt out of the Kernels of Oil-Nuts, by which means it loſes its black Colour, and in proceſs of Time turns to a ſort of Green or Yellow, that they are very fond of; notwithſtanding which, in my Opinion, it looks hideouſly.

The Men here marry as many Women as their Circumſtances will allow them to keep: They have ſcarce any, or at moſt very few Marriage-Ceremonies amongſt either Poor or Rich; except only that one treats the Bride's Friends more ſplendidly than the other.

Their Marriages are commonly made in the following manner. If a Man like a Virgin, he diſcovers his Paſſion to one of the moſt conſiderable amongſt his Relations, who repairs to her Houſe, and aſks her of her Relations; who, if ſhe be not before promis'd, ſeldom deny his Requeſt: The Conſent then of the Relations or Parents thus obtain'd, the Match goes on, and the Bridegroom cloaths his future Bride with a rich Suit of Cloaths, Necklaces and Bracelets; and after having handſomely treated the Relations on both ſides,

ſides, the Wedding is ended without any farther Ceremony. The Treat I now ſpeak of, is not perform'd at the Houſe of the Bridegroom, or indeed any other; but the Victuals and Drink is dreſs'd and prepar'd, and each hath his Part ſent home.

The *Negroes* are very jealous of their Wives with their own Countrymen, but not in the leaſt with reſpect to us; for they are very little concern'd at our converſing with their Wives, whether we rally, ſit or lye by them, provided we keep within the Bounds of Modeſty; nay, they have entertain'd ſo good an Opinion of us, that when we viſit them, if their Affairs call them away, they not only leave us alone with, but recommend us to their Wives for Diverſion whilſt they are out: But no Male *Negro* is allow'd to come near the Women's Apartment, which is a Cuſtom very ſtrictly obſerved by them.

All the Difference betwixt the Wives of the great and thoſe of the meaner Sort, is, that the latter goes every where, where their Work obliges them; but the former are almoſt always ſhut up very cloſe, to obviate all Occaſions of Tranſgreſſion.

If a Man be in his own Houſe, accompanied by ſome of his Wives, and receives a Viſit from any of his Acquaintance, the Wives immediately retire to another part of the Houſe, that they may not be ſeen; but if the Viſitants are *Europeans*, they continue with their Huſbands, by reaſon it is their Deſire; whom they uſe all Arts to pleaſe, becauſe their Happineſs depends on them; for the Men are here abſolute Maſters of their Wives.

Adultery is here puniſh'd three ſeveral Ways: Firſt, amongſt the Commonalty, in the following manner. If any of them is ſuſpicious of the Levity of any of his Wives, he tries all poſſible Means to ſurprize her in the Fact, without which he cannot puniſh her; but if he ſucceeds in his Endeavours, he is thereby lawfully entitled to all the Effects of her Paramour, whether conſiſting in Slaves, *Boeſies* (their Money) Elephants Teeth, or any

other

other Mercantile Commodity; all which he may immediately ſeize, and perfectly uſe, ocupy and enjoy as his own. The offending Wife is puniſh'd very heartily with a Cudgel, and driven out of his Houſe to ſeek her Fortune; but no Perſon being very fond of marrying her after this, ſhe retires to another Place, where ſhe paſſes for a Widow, by way of aiming at another Huſband; or elſe ſtrives to ſubſiſt her ſelf by a Trade not very difficult (for her at leaſt) to learn.

Thus far extends the poor Man's Satisfaction. The Rich revenge themſelves much the ſame way; but the Woman's Relations, to avoid the Scandal which might thereby accrue to their Family, reconcile the offended Huſband with a good Sum of Money, and thereby prevail upon him to admit her to Grace, which they generally do; and then the thus aton'd Adultereſs paſſes for as virtuous a Woman as before her Crime, and is alſo for the future treated with all matrimonial Endearments in her Turn, as well as his other Wives.

The Governors puniſh Adultery more ſeverely; for if they ſurprize any debauching their Wives, they kill both them and their Paramours on the very Spot where they committed the Crime, and throw their dead Bodies on the Dunghil, to be expoſed as a Prey to wild Beaſts.

Theſe ſevere Puniſhments of Adultery amongſt all Ranks of People, deter Men from meddling with Wives ſo much, that this Crime is very ſeldom committed here.

The *Negroes* are very libidinous, which they aſcribe to their *Pardon*-Wine, and good Eating, which invigorates Nature: They are indeed much in the right as to the laſt, but I never could obſerve any ſuch Virtue in the former.

They are not inclined to talk of Procreation in obſcene or too expreſſive Terms; they believe it to be deſign'd by Nature for obſcure Retreats, and therefore very improper to be talked of in broad Terms; but he that can cleanly expreſs this Subject in well meaning

ing

ing Hints, paſſes for a Wit: Hence each of them aims at diverting Fables or Similitudes tending this way.

The pregnant Wife is not allowed even the matrimonial Careſſes of her Huſband till ſhe is deliver'd; after which, if a Male Infant, it is preſented to the King, as properly and of right belonging to him: And hence all the Males of the Land are call'd the King's Slaves; but the Females belong to the Father, and live with him, according to his Pleaſure, till they are of Age; after which he marries them, when, and to whom he pleaſes.

Eight or fourteen Days, or ſometimes longer, after the Birth of their Children, both Males and Females are circumcis'd; the former are hereby bereft of their Prepuce, and the latter of a ſmall Portion of their Clitoris: Beſides which, they make ſmall Inciſions all over the Bodies of the Infants, in a ſort of regular manner expreſſing ſome Figures thereby; but the Females are more adorned with theſe Ornaments than the Males, and each at Pleaſure of their Parents.

You may eaſily gueſs that this mangling the Bodies of theſe tender Creatures muſt be very painful; but ſince it is the Faſhion here, and is thought very ornamental, it is practiſed by every Body.

When the Child is ſeven Days old, the Parents make a ſmall Feaſt, imagining, that the Infant is paſt its greateſt Danger; and in order to prevent the evil Spirits from doing it any Miſchief, they ſtrew all the Ways with dreſſed Victuals to appeaſe them.

If a Woman bear two Children at a Birth, it is believed to be a good Omen, and the King is immediately informed thereof, who cauſes publick Joy to be expreſs'd with all ſorts of their Muſick. The Father imagining it too heavy a Taſk for the Woman to ſuckle both the Children, ſearches out a wet Nurſe whoſe Child is dead; whom he perſuades by the force of Money or good Words, to nurſe one of his Children.

In

In all Parts of the *Benin* Territories, Twin-Births are eſteem'd good Omens, except at *Areba*, where they are of the contrary Opinion, and treat the Twin-bearing Woman very barbarouſly; for they actually kill both Mother and Infants, and ſacrifice them to a certain Devil, which they fondly imagine harbours in a Wood near the Village: But if the Man happens to be more than ordinary tender, he generally buys off his Wife, by ſacrificing a Female Slave in her place; but the Children are without poſſibility of Redemption oblig'd to be made the ſatisfactory Offerings which this Savage Law requires.

In the Year 1699, a Merchant's Wife, commonly called *Ellaroe* or *Moſ*, Lay-in of two Children, and her Huſband redeemed her with a Slave, but ſacrific'd his Children. After which I had frequent Opportunities of ſeeing and talking with the diſconſolate Mother, who never could ſee an Infant without a very melancholy Reflection on the Fate of her own, which always extorted briny Tears from her.

The following Year the like Event happen'd to a Prieſt's Wife: She was deliver'd of two Children, which, with a Slave, inſtead of his Wife, he was obliged to kill and ſacrifice with his own Hands, by reaſon of his Sacerdotal Function. And exactly one Year after, as tho' it had been a Puniſhment inflicted from Heaven, the ſame Woman was the ſecond time deliver'd of two Children; but how the Prieſt managed himſelf on this Occaſion, I have not been informed, but am apt to think, that this poor Woman was forced to atone her Fertility by Death.

Theſe diſmal Events have in proceſs of Time made ſuch Impreſſions on the Men, that when the Time of their Wive's Delivery approaches, they ſend them to another Country; which makes me believe that for the future they will correct theſe Inhumanities.

The Wood beforemention'd, in which the Devil is ſuppoſed to lurk, is by them eſteemed ſo ſacred, that they never permit a foreign *Negro* or any of his Wives

to enter it. If any Perſon accidentally happen on a Path which leads to this Wood, he is obliged to go to the end of it without returning before he comes there; and they are firmly perſuaded, that if this Law be violated, or that of offering the Children and Mother, or at leaſt a Female Slave in her Place, the Land will be infeſted by ſome ſevere Plague. Notwithſtanding all which, I have frequently gone a-Shooting in this Wood; and to ridicule their Credulity, deſignedly turned before I had gone half to the end of the Path; by which means I not a little ſtagger'd the Faith of ſome, who ſaw that my Boldneſs was not attended with any ill Conſequences: But the roguiſh Prieſts were immediately ready at hand with an Exception, which was, That I being a white Man, their God, or rather Devil, did not trouble his Head with me; but if a *Negro* ſhould preſume to do ſo, the Danger would ſoon appear.

The Multiplication of Mankind goes forward very ſucceſsfully here, which is not very hard to believe, ſince the Women are not barren, and the Men vigorous; beſides which, they have the Advantage of a Choice out of their great Number of Wives; of which, for their Encouragement, the fruitful Woman is highly valued, whilſt the barren is deſpis'd.

Menſtruous Women are here deemed ſo unclean, that they are not permitted ſo much as to enter their Huſband's Houſes, or to touch any thing, either to dreſs the domeſtick Diet, or clean the Houſe, or indeed on any other Account; nor are they permitted ſo much as to look into, much leſs enter ſeveral Houſes, but during this natural Uncleanneſs, are obliged to reſide in a ſeparate Houſe; tho' as ſoon as that is over, and they have waſhed themſelves, they are reſtored to their former State.

If they are aſked who firſt taught them Circumciſion, and to believe menſtruous Women unclean; they reply, that they do not themſelves know, but that thoſe Cuſtoms are traditionally handed to them by

their

their Anceſtors: And this is the common Anſwer of all the Blacks.

The *Negroes* of this Country don't ſeem ſo much afraid of Death as in other Lands; they are not uneaſy at the naming of it, and aſcribe the Length or Brevity of Life to their gods. Notwithſtanding which, they are very zealous in the uſe of thoſe Means which are thought proper for the Prolongation of Life; for if they fall ſick, the firſt Refuge is the Prieſt, who here, as well as on the *Gold Coaſt*, acts the Doctor: He firſt adminiſters green Herbs, which proving ineffectual, he hath recourſe to Sacrifices. If the Patient recovers, the Prieſt is very much eſteemed; but if not, he is diſmiſſed, and another, from whom better Succeſs is expected, is called in.

If theſe Sacerdotal Doctors happen to cure the Patient, they are very much reverenc'd; but the ſick Perſon is no ſooner perfectly recover'd, than they are diſcharged without any Reſpect: So that if the Prieſts here have no other Dependance, they are generally poor, becauſe each particular Perſon offers his own Sacrifices, and performs the Service of his Idols, without giving them any manner of Trouble.

When any Perſon dies, the Corps is waſhed and cleanſed; and if a Native of *Benin* happens to die at a very diſtant Place, the Body is perfectly dried up over a gentle Fire, and put into a Coffin, whoſe Planks are cloſe join'd with Glue, and brought with the firſt Opportunity to the mention'd City, in order to be buried: But ſometimes a convenient Conveyance does not offer it ſelf in ſeveral Years; wherefore the dead Corps is thus long kept above Ground, as I have ſeen ſeveral in my Time at *Arebo*.

The neareſt Relations, Wives and Slaves, go into Mourning on account of the dead Perſon; ſome ſhave their Hair, others their Beards, or half their Heads, *&c.* The publick Mourning commonly laſts fourteen Days. Their Lamentations and Cries are accommodated to the Tunes of ſeveral muſical Inſtruments, tho' with

large intermediate Stops; during which, they drink very plentifully. And when the Funeral is over, each Perſon retires to his own Houſe, and the neareſt Relations, which continue in Mourning, bewail the Dead in this manner for ſeveral Months.

The Right of Inheritance devolves in the following manner. When any Perſon of Condition dies, the eldeſt Son is ſole Heir, but is oblig'd to preſent a Slave by way of Herriot to the King, and another to the three Great Lords, with a Petition that he may ſucceed his Father in the ſame Quality; which the King accordingly grants, and he is declar'd the lawful Heir of all his Father hath left behind him: He beſtows no more on his younger Brothers than what out of his Bounty he pleaſes; but if his Mother be alive, he allows her a creditable Maintenance proportion'd to her Condition, and allows her beſides to keep whatever ſhe hath gotten from his Father. His Father's other Widows, eſpecially thoſe which have not had any Children, the Son takes home, if he likes them, and uſes as his own; but thoſe which he doth not like, he alſo takes them home with their Children, and ſets them to work, in order to ſubſiſt them the more creditably; but entertains no matrimonial Converſation with them.

Of this laſt ſort, here are as great Numbers as of Proſtitutes in other Countries.

If the Deceas'd leaves no Children, the Brother inherits his Effects; and in caſe of Deficiency of ſuch Heir, the next-akin; But if no lawful Heir appears, the King inherits.

The Government of this Country is principally veſted in the King and the three-mention'd Great Lords; the firſt is nominal Governor, and the laſt are really ſo. Each Province hath its particular Governor, all which depend on theſe three chief Springs, without whoſe Conſent they dare not act.

The Crimes here committed are puniſhed in the following manner. Thievery is not rife here, theſe *Ne-*

groes not being of the ſame pilfering Nature as at other Places; however, if the Thief is taken in the Fact, he is obliged to Reſtitution of the ſtolen Goods, and beſides puniſh'd by a pecuniary Mulct; but if he is poor, after Reſtitution of the ſtolen Goods if in his Power, he is very well beaten. But if the Robbery be done upon any of the Government, it is puniſhed with Death: In the mean time, as I have already hinted, this Crime ſo ſeldom occurs, that Examples are very rare.

Murder is a Crime that happens here, yet more ſeldom than the former. Whoever kills a Man, is puniſhed with Death; but if the Murderer happen to be the King's Son, or ſome other conſiderable Perſon, he is baniſh'd to the utmoſt Borders of the King's Territories, to which he is convey'd under a very ſtrong Guard; but none of theſe baniſh'd Perſons being ever heard of, the *Negroes* take it for granted, that their Guard conduct them to the *Elyſian* Fields. If any Perſon with his Fiſt, or otherwiſe accidentally and undeſignedly kills another, and the dead Perſon did not bleed, and his Death doth not ſeem violent; the Offender may then purchaſe his Life, by firſt burying the Dead creditably at his own Charges, and afterwards producing a Slave to ſuffer in his ſtead. This Slave, doomed to a reconciling Offering, he is obliged to touch on his Knees with his Forehead as he is killed; after which, he is obliged to pay a large Sum to the Great Lords; and this performed, he obtains his Freedom; and the Friends of the Deceaſed are obliged to reſt ſatisfy'd with this.

I have already inform'd you of the Puniſhment of Adultery; whatever other Crimes are committed, they are atoneable with Money; and the Fine is proportion'd to the Offence: And he that hath no Money, muſt ſatisfy the Fine by a corporal Puniſhment; ſo that where Effects are deficient, the Body muſt make good the Fine.

In caſe of Accuſations which are not clearly prov'd, the Accuſed is obliged to purge himſelf by Trial, which is practis'd five ſeveral Ways, four of which take place in ſlight Offences and civil Cauſes, and the fifth in capital and high Crimes, as high Treaſon, or all Crimes of ſo deep a Dye: This laſt Trial is only allow'd to be taken by conſiderable Perſons, and that too by the King's eſpecial Order.

The firſt ſort of Purgation is manag'd in the following manner. The Accuſed are carried to the Prieſt, who greaſes a Cock's Feather, and therewith pierces the Tongue of the Accus'd; if it paſſes eaſily thro', it is a Sign the Man is innocent, and the Wound made by the Quill will ſoon cloſe and heal up without any Pain: But on the other ſide, if he is guilty, the Quill remains ſticking in his Tongue, and he is accordingly pronounced guilty.

The ſecond Trial of Innocence is practis'd in the following manner. The Prieſt takes an oblong Clod of Earth, in which he ſticks ſeven or nine Cocks Quills, which the ſuſpected Perſon is obliged to draw out ſucceſſively; and if they come out eaſily, it is a Sign of Innocence; but if not, the Priſoner is convicted of the Crimes alledged againſt him.

The third Proof is made by ſpurting a certain Juice of green Herbs into the Eyes of the accuſed Perſon; which, if it happen to do him no hurt, he is thought innocent; but if his Eyes become thereby red and inflam'd, he is oblig'd to pay the Fine laid on him.

For the fourth Trial, the Prieſt ſtrokes the Priſoner three times over the Tongue with a red-hot Copper Arm-Ring, and from his being hurt or not hurt thereby, they pronounce Judgment.

I have ſeen all theſe four Trials made; but all the Accuſed were declared guilty, and not without Reaſon; for it would be ſtrange indeed, if red-hot Copper ſhould not burn the Tongue. The fifth and laſt Proof, which doth not happen once in twenty Years, I never ſaw, and conſequently have it only by Hear-ſay.

If

If any Perſon is accuſed of a very great Crime, of which he is deſirous to clear himſelf by Oath, the King's Leave being firſt aſked and obtained, the Accuſed is brought to a certain River, to which is aſcrib'd the ſtrange Quality of gently wafting every innocent Perſon plunged therein to Land, tho' never ſo unſkill'd in the Art of Swimming; and on the other ſide, to ſink the Guilty to the bottom, tho' never ſuch good Swimmers; by which means, if he endeavours to help himſelf out, 'twould be in vain, and only render his Death the more painful. The Water (before very calm) immediately, upon a guilty Perſon's being thrown in, grows and continues as turbulent as a Whirl-pool, till the Criminal is gotten to the bottom; when, as tho' perfectly ſatisfy'd, it returns to its former Tranquility. What think you, Sir, Should you rely on this weak Proof? I believe not; for my part, I ſhould not; for I ſhould, tho' never ſo innocent, be very much afraid, if not a ſkilful Swimmer, that my Innocence would not ſave me from irrecoverably ſinking to the bottom; and I believe there are ſeveral of my Mind.

The Fines charged on theſe Crimes, are divided as follows: Firſt, The Perſon injur'd by Thievery, or any other Crime, is ſatisfy'd out of it; then the Governor hath his Part; and laſt of all the beforemention'd Great Lords have alſo their Share: For the King, whoſe Ear it never reaches, hath no Part thereof. If the three Lords are contented with what is ſent them, it is well; but they frequently ſend them back to the Governors or Viceroys, and in the King's Name inform them, that the Fines are too ſmall, and conſequently that they have not deported themſelves in that Affair according to their Duty; giving them alſo to underſtand what they ought to have done. Thoſe to whom theſe Orders are ſent, tho' they very well know that the King never intermeddles in theſe Affairs, but that it is only the Pleaſure of the Lords, are notwithſtanding oblig'd to a ſtrict Obedience, and generally

ſend double the Sum they require; otherwiſe the Lords would not fail to take an Opportunity of revenging their Contempt by ſome ill Office or other.

Before I ſpeak of their Religion, I ſhall employ a few Lines in the Deſcription of their muſical Inſtruments, which chiefly conſiſts in large and ſmall Drums, not very different from thoſe of the *Gold Coaſt*: They are ſhaped like them, cover'd with Leather or Skins, and beaten in the ſame manner as they are. Beſides theſe Drums, they have a ſort of Iron-Bells on which they play; alſo Callebaſſes hung round with Boeſies, which ſerve them inſtead of Caſtagnettes; all which together afford a very diſagreeable and jarring Sound.

Beſides theſe, they have alſo an Inſtrument, which will needs be called an Harp; it is ſtrung with ſix or ſeven extended Reeds, upon which they play very artfully, and ſing ſo finely, and dance ſo juſtly to the Tune, that it is very agreeably diverting to ſee it; Theſe are indeed the beſt Dancers I ever ſaw amongſt the *Negroes*. The Natives of *Axim*, in their annual Feaſt, when they drive out the Devil, have much ſuch a Dance, tho' neither ſo fine, nor near ſo diverting as this.

The Natives here are not at all addicted to Gaming, Here are no other Games than thoſe play'd with Beans, and that only for Diverſion and Paſtime; but never for Money.

Their Religion is ſo abſurd and perplex'd, that I ſcarce know how to deſcribe it: But however, to begin as well as I can.

They profeſs to worſhip both Gods and Devils in human and brutal Images, ſome of which are Elephants Teeth, Claws, dead Mens Heads, and Skeletons, *&c.* Alſo they take every thing which ſeems extraordinary in Nature for a god, and make Offerings to him; and each is his own Prieſt, in order to worſhip his gods in what manner pleaſes him beſt.

It

It is really the more to be lamented, that the *Negroes* idolize ſuch worthleſs Nothings, by reaſon that ſeveral amongſt them have no very unjuſt Idea of the Deity; for they aſcribe to God the Attributes of Omnipreſence, Omniſcience, and Inviſibility; beſides which, they believe that he governs all Things by his Providence. By reaſon God is inviſible, they ſay, it would be abſurd to make any Corporeal Repreſentations of him; for it is impoſſible to make any Image of what we never ſaw: Wherefore they have ſuch Multitudes of Images of their Idol-gods, which they take to be ſubordinate Deities to the ſupreme God, without conſidering what ſorts of Trifles they are, and only believe there are Mediators betwixt God and Men, which they take to be their Idols.

They know enough of the Devil, to call all that is ill by that Name, and believe themſelves oblig'd to worſhip and ſerve him, to prevent his miſchieving them. The Devil is not repreſented by any particular Image, or diſtinguiſh'd from their Idols any otherwiſe than in their Intention only; for to the very ſame Image, they one time make Offerings to God, and at another to the Devil; ſo that one Image ſerves them in the two Capacities of God and Devil.

They talk very much concerning the Apparition of the Ghoſts of their deceas'd Anceſtors or Relations; which yet happens only to them in their Sleep, when they come and warn them to make this or that Offering; which, as ſoon as Day approaches, they immediately do; if they are unable, they will, rather than fail in this Duty, borrow of others; for they imagine that the Neglect hereof would draw on them ſome heavy Affliction. If any Perſon in Raillery tells them they are only idle Imaginations and Dreams, theſe will agree with them; but add, it is a Cuſtom of our Fore-fathers which we are oblig'd to follow. No other Anſwer is to be obtain'd from them.

Their daily Offerings are not of great Value, conſiſting only of a few boiled Jammes, mixt with Oil,

which they lay before the Images of their gods. Sometimes they offer a Cock; but then the Idol hath only the Blood, becauſe they like the Fleſh very well themſelves.

The Great Men make annual Sacrifices, which are perform'd in great State, and prove very expenſive; not only by reaſon of their killing great Multitudes of Cows, Sheep, and all ſorts of Cattle, but becauſe that beſides they give a ſolemn Feaſt, making their Friends very merry for ſeveral Days ſucceſſively, and withal make them Preſents.

The Seat of Bliſs or Torment in the future Life, they imagine to be the Sea. They call the Shadow of a Man *Paſſadoor*, or Conductor, which they believe ſhall teſtify whether he hath lived well or ill; if well, he is rais'd to great Dignity in the mention'd Place; but if ill, he is to periſh with Hunger and Poverty; ſo that they ſend the Happy and the Damned to the ſame Place.

Their falſe gods, or the Traſh which repreſents them, are ſpread all over their Houſes, and no Place is free from them; beſides which there are ſeveral ſmall Huts erected without the Houſe, which are likewiſe filled with them, and whither they ſometimes go to ſacrifice.

To conclude their ridiculous Religion, I ſhall add a ſmall Account of their Feſtivals, of which they have ſo many, and different ones, that they ought not to give place to the *Romaniſts*: Their great Feaſt, call'd the *Coral-Feaſt*, happens in *May*, at which the King himſelf is preſent. The Celebration of this pompous Feſtival I this Year ſaw at *Benin*: But of this more at large in the Deſcription of that City.

Their Sabbath happens every fifth Day, which is very ſolemnly obſerv'd by the Great with the Slaughter of Cows, Sheep and Goats, whilſt the Commonalty kill Dogs, Cats and Chickens, or whatever their Money will reach to: And of whatever is kill'd, large Portions are diſtributed to the Neceſſitous, in order

to

to enable them, as every Perſon is oblig'd, to celebrate this Feſtival.

One Day in the Year they alſo very expenſively celebrate the Deceaſe of their Anceſtors or Relations, in order to keep up the Remembrance of them.

They divide Time into Years, Months, Weeks, and Days; each of which is diſtinguiſh'd by a particular Name, and they reckon fourteen Months to a Year.

Believing that I have ſaid enough of their idolatrous Worſhip, it is time to vary the Subject. I cannot ſay much of their Wars; for notwithſtanding that they are continually fallen on by the Pyrates or Robbers, and their Neighbours not ſubject to the King of *Benin*, they yet are ignorant of the Art of War; for being by Neceſſity drawn into the Field, their Conduct is ſo very confuſed, that they themſelves are aſhamed of it: They have no Officers or Commanders; and each Man takes his own Courſe, without regarding his Neighbour.

They are ſo very cowardly, that nothing but the utmoſt Neceſſity can oblige them to fight; and even then they had much rather ſuffer the greateſt Loſſes than defend themſelves: When their Flight is prevented, they return upon the Enemy, but with ſo little Courage and Conduct, that they ſoon fling down their Arms, and either run away, or ſurrender themſelves.

Their Weapons are Cutlaces or Hangers, ſmall Poniards, Aſſaguays, together with Bows and Arrows, the latter of which are poiſon'd: They have alſo Shields, but ſo light, and made of ſmall Bamboes, that they cannot ward off any thing that is forcible; wherefore they are rather ornamental, than really ſerve for Defence.

It is now time to treat of the Animals of this Country. Here is no want of tame Beaſts, ſuch as Horſes, Cows, Sheep, Dogs, Cats, beſides Poultry, *&c.* all which are equally good and cheap. The Cattle here, tho' very ſmall, are yet very good, eſpecially that Part

Part of 'em that are edible with us, which are of a good Taste. As for the Remainder, the Dogs and Cats, the *Negroes* evince this Truth also, for they eat them rather than any other Beast.

Wild Beasts, as well voracious as others, are here also in great Abundance. Among the fierce Kind are reckon'd the Elephants, and then the Lions and Tygers. This Country is prodigious full of the first Sort; but I am not very fond of believing there are many Lions or Tygers, by reason I have never yet seen one of them, or indeed so much as one of their Skins; which may nevertheless proceed from the great Cowardice of the *Negroes*, who dare not venture on Hunting them, and consequently have none of their Hides.

Wild Dogs or Jackals are reported to be very numerous here: They also tell us here are Monkeys or Baboons, which are extraordinary large, and will attack a Body of Men that is not too numerous for them.

Here, as well as on the *Gold Coast*, are all sorts of Apes, besides edible wild Beasts; which are here so abundant, that a good Marksman might live on the Sport alone: Their Quadrupeds consist of several sorts of Harts, wild Hogs, and others.

Amongst their feather'd Kind, the principal are Pheasants, Partridges, both Green and Blue, Turtle and Ring-Doves, Ducks, Crooked-Bills, Snipes, Divers, Water-Hens, and a sort of Crown-Birds: But by reason the *Negroes* neither very much love, nor are expert in the use of Fire-Arms, seldom any wild Beast or Fowl come to hand, except they happen to catch them in a Net: They sometimes kill Harts and wild Swine with their Assagays, but very seldom; and whenever it happens, it is look'd upon as something rare.

The River upwards is not well stor'd with Fish; all that they eat here coming from a Place call'd *Boca de le Mare*, or the Mouth of the Sea, where they are dry'd

dry'd and smoak'd; but most of it not being salted, tastes very ill, and stinks abominably.

The Fruits of the Earth are, first, Corn, or great *Milhio*; for they have none of the small sort. The large *Milhio* is here cheap, but they do not esteem it; wherefore but little is sow'd, which yet yields a prodigious Quantity of Grain, and grows very luxuriantly.

They sometimes employ the *Ardra* Women to brew Beer with this *Milhio*; but it proves disagreeable and hot.

Here are not many Potatoes, but a prodigious abundant Plenty of Jammes; which is also their most ready Diet: They eat them with all manner of Edibles instead of Bread; wherefore they are very careful that this Fruit be planted and gather'd in its proper Season.

Here are two sorts of Beans, both which are very like Horse-Beans: They are of a hot disagreeable Taste, and unwholsome.

I never saw any Rice here, nor do I believe any grows in *Benin*, tho' the morassy Land near the River seems very proper for it.

The arboriferous Fruits of *Benin* are two sorts of Coco-Nuts, Cormantyn-Apples, Paquovens, Banana's, wild Figs, and some others, which are only known here, and are not extraordinary.

The Soil, a little distant from the River, is extraordinary fruitful; and whatever is planted or sowed there, grows very well, and yields a rich Crop: But close by the River the Land is not good; for tho' what is sown comes up, yet the contagious Damps of the River kill it.

The Inhabitants are very well skill'd in making several sorts of Dyes, as Green, Blue, Black, Red and Yellow: The Blue they prepare from Indigo, which grows here abundantly; but the remaining Colours are extracted from certain Trees by Friction and Decoction.

The

The *Negroes* here make Soap, which is better than all over *Guinea*; and by reaſon this waſhes very well, the *Negroes* Cloaths are very clean. You know it is made upon the *Gold Coaſt* with Palm-Oil, Banana-Leaves, and the Aſhes of a ſort of Wood: The manner of making it here differs very little. That a prodigious Quantity of Cotton-Trees muſt needs grow here, you may reaſonably conjecture, when I tell you, that not only all the Inhabitants are cloathed with it, but they annually export Thouſands of woven Cloths to other Places.

Thus far have I anſwer'd you on the Heads which you propos'd concerning *Benin*; ſo that I have only two remaining Particulars, which are concerning the King's Revenue, and whether any Tolls are levied here.

As for the firſt: The King hath a very rich Income; for his Territories are very large, and full of Governors, and each knows how many Bags of Boeſies (the Money of this Country) he muſt annually raiſe to the King, which amounts to a vaſt Sum, which 'tis impoſſible to make any Calculation of. Others, of a meaner Rank than the former, inſtead of Money, deliver to the King Bulls, Cows, Sheep, Chickens, Jammes and Cloaths; in ſhort, whatever he wants for his Houſekeeping; ſo that he is not oblig'd to one Farthing Expence on that account, and conſequently he lays up his whole pecuniary Revenue untouch'd.

Duties or Tolls on imported and exported Wares are not paid here; but every one pays a certain Sum annually to the Governor of the Place where he lives, for the Liberty of Trading: The Viceroy ſends part of it to the King; ſo that his Revenue being determin'd and ſettled, he can eaſily compute what he hath to expect annually.

The *Europeans* are here extraordinarily civilly treated; for the Cuſtoms which we are oblig'd to pay for every Ship to the King, the Great Lords, the Governors of the Place where we trade, the Mercadors and Fiadors,

Fiadors, or whatever Perſons elſe who have any Demand upon us, do not amount to above Six Pounds *Sterling*; for which we become entirely free to Trade.

You alſo deſired, that when an Opportunity offer'd to get to the City of *Benin*, I ſhould give you a particular Deſcription of it. I have now twice ſucceſſively had the Happineſs to ſee that City, which I ſhall repreſent to you in its preſent State; whence you may judge how far what Dr. *Dapper* hath ſaid of it agrees with Truth.

The Village of *Benin*, for it at preſent ſcarce deſerves the Name of a City, is the Reſidence of the Great King of *Benin*, whence the whole Land and River alſo borrows it Names: It is ſituate about ten Miles Landwards in from the Village of *Agatton*. The neighbouring Country is flat, as is the Village it ſelf, which is at leaſt about four Miles large. The Streets are prodigious long and broad, in which continual Markets are kept, either of Kine, Cotton, Elephants Teeth, *European* Wares; or, in ſhort, whatever is to be come at in this Country: Theſe Markets are kept in the Fore and Afternoon each Day.

Formerly this Village was very thick and cloſe built, and in a manner overcharg'd with Inhabitants, which is yet viſible from the Ruins of half remaining Houſes; but at preſent the Houſes ſtand like poor Mens Corn, widely diſtant from each other.

The Houſes are large and handſome, with Clay Walls; for here is not a Stone in the whole Country as big as a Man's Fiſt: They are cover'd at the top with Reed, Straw, or Leaves. The Architecture is paſſable, conſidering it in compariſon with *Negro* Buildings, and is very like the *Axim* way of Building.

The Inhabitants of this Village are all Natives; for Foreigners are not permitted to live here.

There are ſeveral very rich Men who live here, and attend continually at Court, not troubling themſelves with either Trade or Agriculture, or any thing elſe, but

but leaving all their Affairs to their Wives and Slaves, who go to all the circumjacent Villages to trade in all ſorts of Merchandizes, or otherwiſe ſerve for daily Wages, and are oblig'd to bring the greateſt Part of their Gain in Trade or Hire to their Maſters.

All Male Slaves are here Foreigners; for the Natives cannot be ſold for Slaves, but are all free, and alone bear the Name of the King's Slaves.

Nor is it allow'd to export any Male Slaves that are ſold in this Country, for they muſt ſtay there; but Females may be dealt with at every one's Pleaſure.

I have already acquainted you with the Employment of the Great; but that of the ordinary Citizens is to loiter about whole Days, till they hear of any Ships being come into the River, upon which they go thither to Trade with what Goods they have in ſtore: And if no Ships come, they ſend their Slaves to *Rios Lagos*, or other Places, to buy Fiſh, of which they make a very profitable Trade further Inland.

The Handicrafts keep to their Work, without troubling themſelves with the Court or Trade. Others employ themſelves in Agriculture, or ſome ſuch thing, in order to get their Living.

The Streets being ſo long and wide as I have ſaid, are by the Women kept very neat; for here, as well as in *Holland*, every Woman cleans her own Door.

The Women here are as much Slaves as in any Place in this Kingdom: They are oblig'd to keep the daily Markets, look after their Houſekeeping and Children, as well as their Kitchens, and Till the Ground: In ſhort, they have ſo much Employment, that they ought not to ſit ſtill; notwithſtanding which, they diſpatch it all very briſkly, and with a great deal of Pleaſure.

They behave themſelves very obligingly to all; but more eſpecially the *Europeans*, except the *Portugueze*, which

which they don't like very well; but our Nation is very much in their Favour.

The King's Court, which makes a principal Part of the City, muſt not be forgotten: It is upon a very great Plain, about which are no Houſes, and hath, beſides its wide Extent, nothing rare. The firſt Place we come into is, a very long Gallery, if it muſt have that Name, which is ſuſtain'd by fifty eight ſtrong Planks, about twelve Foot high, inſtead of Pillars; theſe are neither ſaw'd nor plan'd, but only hack'd out. As ſoon as we are paſt this Gallery, we come to the mud or earthen Wall, which hath three Gates, at each Corner one, and another in the Middle, the laſt of which is adorn'd at the Top with a wooden Turret, like a Chimney, about ſixty or ſeventy Foot high. At the top of all is fixed a large Copper Snake, whoſe Head hangs downwards: This Serpent is very well caſt or carved, and is the fineſt I have ſeen in *Benin*. Entering one of theſe Gates, we come into a Plain about a quarter of a Mile almoſt ſquare, and encloſed with a low Wall. Being come to the end of this Plain, we meet with ſuch another Gallery as the firſt, except that it hath neither Wall nor Turret. Some time ſince this Gallery was half thrown down by Thunder, ſince which no Hand hath been laid to it to rebuild it: This Gallery hath a Gate at each End; and paſſing thro' one of them, a third Gallery offers its ſelf to View, differing from the former only in that the Planks upon which it reſts are Human Figures; but ſo wretchedly carved, that it is hardly poſſible to diſtinguiſh whether they are moſt like Men or Beaſts; notwithſtanding which, my Guides were able to diſtinguiſh them into Merchants, Soldiers, wild Beaſt-Hunters, *&c.* Behind a white Carpet we are alſo ſhewn eleven Mens Heads caſt in Copper, by much as good an Artiſt as the former Carver; and upon each of theſe is an Elephant's Tooth, theſe being ſome of the King's gods. Going thro' a Gate of this Gallery, we enter another great Plain, and a fourth Gallery,

lery, beyond which is the King's Dwelling-Houſe. Here is another Snake, as upon the firſt Wall. In the firſt Apartment, at the Entrance of the Plain, is the King's Audience-Chamber, where, in preſence of his three Great Lords, I ſaw and ſpoke with him: He was ſitting on an Ivory Couch, under a Canopy of *Indian* Silk.

He was a Perſon of an affable Mien, and about forty Years old. I ſtood, according to Cuſtom, about thirty Paces diſtant from him; but deſired, in order to obſerve him the better, that I might approach nearer to him; which, tho' unuſual, he ſmiling granted; and after he had beckon'd me, I advanc'd to within eight or ten Paces of him: There was no Perſon in the Hall beſides the three mention'd Great Lords, the King, and a *Negro* with a drawn Sword in his Hand, that look'd as fierce as a Cabin-Centry.

Whatever any Perſon would ſay to the King, muſt be firſt told to theſe Three, who then report it to him, and bring his Anſwer; going thus to and from him, without any Perſon's being able to determine whether they faithfully report the Meſſages on either ſide.

On the King's Left Hand, againſt a fine Tapeſtry, I ſaw ſeven white ſcower'd Elephants Teeth on Pedeſtals of Ivory, which is the manner that almoſt all the King's gods are placed within his Houſe. I preſented the King with a Silk Night-Gown, with which (as I was afterwards told) he was highly pleas'd; but whilſt I was with him, I ſaw no Marks of his Satisfaction, becauſe it was brought to him cover'd, and he did not ſee what it was till after my Departure; for every thing which is brought to the King is in like manner cover'd with Mats; and before and behind theſe Preſents ſeveral *Negroes* march provided with white Staves. All thoſe who happen to meet them in this Poſture, immediately make haſte out of the way, otherwiſe they would be very well beaten. This Precaution is taken to prevent all Opportunity of poiſoning the King's Goods, or killing him.

The

The *Coral Feast* happen'd when I was at this great Prince's Court; which, tho' it affords nothing very extraordinary, I shall yet give you some Description of, because 'tis the only Day in the Year when the King appears publickly. He came most magnificently dress'd to the second Plain, where, under a very fine Canopy, was placed a Seat for him, and there also his Wives, and a great Number of his Officers of the first Rank, all in their richest Dresses, ranged themselves around him, and soon after began a Procession, after which the King also removed from his Throne, in order to sacrifice to the gods in the open Air, and thereby begin the Feast; which Action is accompanied with the universal loud Acclamations of his People. After passing about a quarter of an Hour in this manner, he return'd to, and again sat down in his Place, where he staid two Hours, in order to give the Remainder of the People Time to perform their Devotions; which done, he returned home. The Remainder of the Day was spent in Splendid Treating and Feasting, and the King caused all sorts of Provisions and Pardon Wine to be distributed in common to all, and all the Great follow'd his Example; so that on that Day nothing is seen throughout the whole City but all possible Marks of rejoicing.

I was not able to discover the Nature and Intent of this *Coral-Feast*, because the *Negroes* would not give me any Account or Explanation of it; their only Answer to that Question, whenever I put it, being, *We don't know any thing of it.*

In the beginning of my Description of this City, I inform'd you of its mean State at present, and that the greatest Part of it lies desolate, which indeed is deplorable, by reason the circumjacent Country is as pleasant as could be wish'd, where no interposing Hill or Wood rudely interrupts the agreeable Prospect of Thousands of charming Trees, which, by their wide extended Branches full of Leaves, seem to invite Mankind to Repose under their Shade. The Ruin of this

Town and the circumjacent Land, was occasion'd by the King's causing two Kings of the Street to be killed, under pretence that they had attempted his Life, tho' all the World was satisfy'd of the contrary, and throughly convinc'd, that their overgrown Riches were the true Cause of their Death, that the King might enrich himself with their Effects, as he did indeed. After this Barbarity, the King found also a third Man that stood in his way, who, being universally belov'd, was timely warn'd of that Prince's Intention, and accordingly took his Flight, accompanied with three Fourths of the Inhabitants of the Town; which the King observing, immediately assembled a Number of Men from the bordering Country, and caused the Fugitives to be pursued, in order to oblige them to return; but they were so warmly received by this King of the Street and his Followers, that they forced them to return with bloody Noses, and give their Master an Account of their Misadventure. But he resolving not to rest there, makes a fresh Attempt, which succeeded no better than the former; which was not all; for the Fugitive, throughly incens'd and flush'd, came directly to the City, which he plunder'd and pillag'd, sparing no Place but the King's Court; after which he retired, but incessantly continued for the Space of ten Years to rob the Inhabitants of *Great Benin*, till at last, by the Mediation of the *Portugueze*, a Peace was concluded betwixt him and the King, by which he was entirely pardon'd all that was past, and earnestly requested by the King to return to his former Habitation; however, he would not trust himself there, but lives two or three Days Journey from *Benin*, where he keeps as great a Court and State as the King.

The returning Citizens were affably and amicably received by the King, and preferr'd to honourable Offices, in order by those Means to induce the rest to return, which probably they will not do, as being very

very well contented where they are; wherefore it is to be feared that the greateſt Part of this Town is ſtill likely to continue uninhabited.

This, Sir, is all I can ſay of *Benin*. Nor can I at preſent give you any Account of *Rio de Calbary*, becauſe I was not there, by reaſon of the great Mortality which happen'd amongſt our Men; but I hope once in my Life to meet with an Opportunity of going thither. I paſs over *Rio de Gabon* and *Cabo Lopez di Gonſalvez*, becauſe you your ſelf have been there; and for the ſame Reaſon I omit our Arrival on the *Gold Coaſt*.

I have now only to add my Wiſhes, that theſe Obſervations may in the leaſt contribute to your Satisfaction, and aſſure you, that the Writer hereof is very ambitious of being reckon'd amongſt your moſt humble Servants, and ſhall continue ſo whilſt

David Van Nyendael.

From on Board the Yatcht Johanna Maria, *Sept.* 1. 1702.

A Deſcription of the *Tooth* and *Grain* Coaſt, &c.

LETTER XXII.

The Author's Departure from Elmina, *and Arrival at* Acra; *which he leaves, and ſails to* Cape Lopez di Gonſalvez; *which he leaves, after Trading there, and ſails along the Æquinoctial Line. Arrival at the Upper Coaſt about* Cabo Monte. *The Author lands, and is very civilly treated by the Inhabitants. A Deſcription of the King's Perſon, his Children, and the Multitude of his Wives. The Induſtry of the Inhabitants. The Vegetables, Cattle and Fiſh of the Country. They*

They marry as many Wives as they please. Their Habits, Religion, Wars and Weapons, Description of Cape Mont, *and Departure from thence. His Arrival at* Cape Mizurado, *and going on Shore. Some Inhabitants of this Place robb'd by the* English. *The Trade there. A Description of the Place and its Inhabitants. The Women do all the Work, and the Men live idly. Some* English *made Prisoners by them. A very fine River. His Departure from thence, and Arrival at* Rio Junk, *before the Town of* Corra, *where he went on Shore, and what he observ'd there. A Woman deliver'd of four Children at a Birth. The Author's Departure and Arrival at* Rio Sestre. *A Description of that and the Village, of the King and his Subjects. Great Plenty of Rice. Their Trade. Manner of burning their Dead. His Departure. How the Land bears. Anchoring before* Sauguin. *Trade with the Natives, as also with those of* Boffoe *and* Bottewa, *who are very Thievish. The Captain of* Bottewa *comes on Board. His Character. He sails by* Bottewa *and* Sino. *Arrival at* Sestro Crou, *which is a fine Village. He sails by* Wappo *and* Cape-das Palmas, *and arrives at* Druwin, *where he Trades. The Natives have very sharp Teeth, are very savage, and Lovers of Human Flesh.* Rio St. Andrees *is so wide and deep, that it is navigable with small Ships. The Inhabitants are barbarous, but the Country pleasant and fruitful. The Author's Departure, and dropping Anchor before* Cape La-Hoe, *where there is a great Village and River. The Natives affable and very tractable in Business. His Departure, and passing* Jaque La-hoe, *and the* Bottomless Pit. *Arrival at* Alline, *but sailing by it. Account of the* French *Garison there. Sailing by* Cape Apolonia. *Arrival at* Axim, *and Conclusion of the Voyage.*

SIR,

PUrsuant to your Orders, this serves to furnish you with an Account of our Voyage, and the Countries where we Traded; but making but a few Days Stay on some of them, I am not therefore so able to oblige you with a large Account of the National Constitution or Manners of the Inhabitants, as I could wish I were; so that I can only desire you to believe, that if my Relation falls short of your Expectation, the Fault is to be charged on want of Opportunity to gratify you, but not in the least to the want of Inclinations.

After having taken our Leaves, under the Salvo of a chearful Glass, we weighed Anchor, and began our Voyage. Two Days after we arrived at *Acra*, where

we executed our Commiſſion, left that Place, and ſteered our Courſe to *Cape Lopez di Gonſalvez*, where we arrived without any conſiderable Accident in our Paſſage, on the——

I ſhall not deſcribe this Cape to you, who have viſited it your ſelf; but ſhall only inform you, that after having concluded our Trade there, we left it on the——— and inclined to the *Weſt*, ſailing along the Æquinoctial, till we came high enough to make the Upper Coaſt.

About Ten in the Evening, on the 28th of *November*, we made Land; and in the Morning found our ſelves about ten Miles above *Cape Monte*. The Land here bears low and flat to the mention'd Cape. It is furniſh'd with numerous Villages; but not one *Negro* coming on Board us, we were reſolved to depart without Anchoring, and make for the Cape, where we happily arrived the following Day.

After which I immediately loaded a Parcel of Goods into the Boat, and therewith went on Shore, intending to try whether I could deal for any Elephants Teeth, which ſometimes are plenty there.

As ſoon as I landed, I found the whole Shore filled with *Negroes*, who very civilly welcomed me, and conducted me to their Houſes, juſt beyond the Shore, making out three ſmall Villages, the whole Amount of which was not full thirty Houſes.

As ſoon as I was come into one of theſe great Villages, I was treated with ſeveral Pots of Wine, and deſired to ſtay the Arrival of their King; which I agreeing to, after having paſſed an Hour, his Majeſty appeared, accompanied with a Party of Men. I roſe up, in order to meet him before he entred the Village, and to ſalute him with a profound Reverence.

He, as well as the reſt, bid me heartily welcome, and we went into the Village, where we ſat down together. After ſome Converſation, I aſked his Majeſty, *Whether there was any Probability of Trading to any Purpoſe here*; but was anſwered, *That they had not at*

preſent any Stock of Elephants Teeth; wherefore I was obliged to content my ſelf with two, there being then no more to be gotten.

This King was an elderly Man, as appeared by his grey Head and Beard: His Name was *Jan de Cabo Monte*, ſo called from the Point of that Name. He was cloathed, or rather hung with a brown Cloak, and a woollen Cap on his Head; ſo that his whole Equipage, if ſold to the Brokers, would not yield forty Shillings.

I was informed, that he was bleſſed with ſixteen Children, twelve Sons and four Daughters. On each of the firſt of which he hath beſtowed the Government of a Village, containing eight Huts; for Houſes they cannot, with any manner of Juſtice, be called.

The Daughters alſo did their beſt to paſs honeſtly thro' the World; but their principal Trade lay in relieving the Travellers Neceſſities at a very reaſonable Price.

If the *Negroes* are to be credited, the King had not above four hundred Wives, who all live with him in one Village, about three Miles Inland from the River-ſide.

This is a very fine River, which begins juſt beyond the Shore, without entring the Sea above once in a Year, when, by reaſon of the great Rains, it overflows: Its Courſe is extended far Inland, and, according to the Report of the *Negroes*, diſſembogues its ſelf into the River *Sierra Leone*, which is a good Diſtance from this Place.

The Inhabitants of *Cabo Monte* are induſtrious to the laſt Degree: Their Employments chiefly conſiſt in planting of Rice, and boiling of Salt; both which all the *Negroes* are oblig'd to do for the King, whoſe Slaves they are accounted.

The Product of this Land conſiſts of a ſmall Quantity of great Milhio, Jammes, Potatoes, and abundance of Rice. The arboriferous Fruits here, as well

as

as on the *Gold Coaſt*, are Paquovens, Banana's, Ananas's, *&c.*

They are not very well ſtored with Cattle; for they have neither Kine nor Hogs, and but a few Sheep; alſo not many Chicken, but they are good.

Here are enough of Elephants, Tygers, Buffles, Harts, and other wild Beaſts.

Nor is there here the leaſt want of Fiſh; the River is full of them, and they catch them with large Nets.

Each Man here, at pleaſure, marries as many Wives as he can maintain; and by reaſon the Women work hard, their Keeping is not very expenſive: They ſeem alſo to live very contentedly with their Wives, and not to be much concern'd if they ſometimes venture on unlawful Pleaſures with other Men.

The Habit of theſe *Negroes* is very like Shifts, with wide Sleeves, which hang down to the Knees; or, indeed, it is more like a Surplice: But the Women do not wear this Habit, but inſtead thereof a narrow Cloth wound about their Middles, and tucked in at their Sides to faſten it, without being at the trouble of doing it by a Girdle, as on the *Gold Coaſts*; nor do they wear Garters like them. Sometimes they ſhamefully go naked, as if they were proud of what Nature beſtows on them in common with the reſt of their Sex.

I aſked them what Religion they profeſſed; and was anſwer'd, that it principally conſiſted in reverencing and obeying their King, and the Governor ſet over them, without troubling themſelves with what was above them.

When I enquir'd after their Wars with other Countries, they told me, they were not often troubled with them; but if any Difference happen'd, they choſe rather to end the Diſpute amicably, than to come to Arms; wherefore their Bows and Arrows (their only Weapons) ſerve rather for Ornament, than military Uſes.

This being all I have to ſay of *Cape Monte*, I ſhall take Leave of it with only acquainting you, that the Cape is a very high Mountain, which, as we come from the Sea, looks like a lofty Iſland ſeparated from the Coaſt. The Country hereabouts is very pleaſant, and alſo ſeems very fertile. The Coaſt of *Cape Monte* extends *South-Eaſt* and by *Eaſt*, and *North-Weſt* and by *Weſt*, and is all over flat Land.

We departed thence, and arrived on the 25th before *Cape Mizurado*, which is alſo a high Hill, tho' not ſo high as that of *Cape Monte*: They are about ten Miles diſtant from each other.

We caſt Anchor, but not one *Negro* coming on Board, I ſtepped into the Shallop, and went on Shore; and after having ſtaid a while on the Strand, ſome *Negroes* came to us, and being deſirous to be inform'd why they did not come on Board, I was anſwer'd, that about two Months before, the *Engliſh* had been there with two large Veſſels, and had ravaged the Country, deſtroy'd all their Canoes, plunder'd their Houſes, and carried off ſome of their People for Slaves; upon which the Remainder fled to the Inland Country, where moſt of them were at preſent; ſo that here not being much to be done for us, we were oblig'd to return on Board, having not been able in two Days time to come at above three hundred Weight of Teeth.

The Land betwixt both the laſt mention'd Capes, is perfectly flat and even, the Coaſt bears as above. Two Miles *Weſt* of this Place are three Villages, containing about twenty Houſes each; which, indeed, were the fineſt I ſaw in my whole Voyage: Each of them had three neat Apartments, and covered at the Tops, like our Hay-reaks in *Holland*. In one of theſe Houſes are commonly lodged fifty or ſixty Men, Women and Children, all which confuſedly intermix in their Lodging: The Women are handſome, and, as the Men informed me, are permitted to earn what Money they pleaſed with their Bodies. I found all the Inhabitants

bitants civil and good-natur'd People. Two old Men here pretended to be Captains, and obliged me to pay ſeven Pound of Copper as Cuſtom. By reaſon of the Injuries which they received from the *Engliſh*, they were ſo timorous, that they would not venture on Board any Ship; and if any Perſon come armed on Shore, they immediately fly.

The Men do not much trouble themſelves with working, but rather leave that to their Wives; as believing they have ſufficiently fatigu'd themſelves with Trading a little, moſtly in *Palm* Wine, which is very plenty and good here.

They ſeem to give themſelves no more trouble about Religion, than their Neighbours of *Cape Monte*, being very ſollicitous about nothing but Eating and Drinking, and making merry.

What hath been ſaid of the Habits, Cattle, and Fruit of the former, may alſo ſerve them: They tell us they live in Peace with all their Neighbours, and have no Notion of any other Enemy than the *Engliſh*, of which Nation they had taken ſome then, and publickly declared, that they would endeavour to get as many of them as the two mention'd Ships had carried off of their Natives. Theſe unhappy *Engliſh* were in danger of being ſacrific'd to the Memory of their Friends, which ſome of their Nation carried off.

I ſhould now take Leave of *Cape Mizurado*, if I did not find my ſelf obliged to ſay ſomething concerning the River, which diſcharges it ſelf into the Sea, and is five or ſix Foot deep in the Entrance; ſo that in calm Weather it is eaſily navigable with ſmall Boats or Shallops: It takes its Courſe *Weſtwards* three Miles from hence, and *Eaſtwards* directly to *Rio Seſtre*, whither the Natives daily paſs in their Canoes, and Trade either in the natural Produce of the Country, or Elephants Teeth, by reaſon that a much greater Number of Ships come to *Rio Seſtre* than here.

On the 28th of —— we weighed Anchor, and left this Cape, ſteering *Eaſt* along the Shore. The Coaſt

bears,

bears, and the Land ſhews as above, for five Miles from *Mizurado*, where, at three different Places, we diſcover different Land; the firſt of which is not very high, the laſt higher, and the middlemoſt higher than both. We did not ſee ſo much as one *Negro*, or any Village, till we were advanc'd three Miles farther *Eaſtward*, where, by reaſon of the Calm, we were oblig'd to Anchor; and towards the Evening we ſaw Fire on the Shore, whence we conjectur'd that there was a Village, and the Natives made that Sign, to expreſs their Inclination to Trade with us; wherefore we continued there till next Day: But no Perſon coming near us, in the Morning we weighed Anchor, and purſued our Voyage till Noon, when we caſt Anchor once more in *Rio Junk*, and ſtayed till Evening; but ſaw neither *Negroes* nor *Canoes*. The Land hereabouts ſhews low and flat; but farther Inland diſcovers three Hills, the two firſt of which are ſituate *Weſt* of *Rio Junk*, appearing perfectly round, and the largeſt in the Middle.

The Entrance of *Rio Junk* diſcharges it ſelf into the Sea, and at the Point four high Trees diſcover themſelves, two of which are adorn'd with Crowns or round Tops, and the other two which are the higheſt, are ſomewhat thorny: Hereabouts the Land ſhews chiefly even and doubled. A Mile *Eaſt* of *Rio Junk*, are two large Clefts, which render this Cape very diſtinguiſhable; beſide that it may be eaſily known by the Multitude of Rocks, of which the Shore is full, and againſt which the Sea continually beats in a terrible manner. We ſaw the Fires made by the *Negroes*, to advertiſe one another that there were Ships in ſight; but by reaſon no Body came on Board us, I am of Opinion, that they are Salt Villages. The Coaſt here extends from *Eaſt* to *South*, and from *Weſt* to *North*.

We ſailed on till three Miles *Weſt* of *Rio Seſtre*, where a Canoe full of *Negroes* came on Board us, who deſir'd us to Anchor before their Village, which

was

was ſituate in a pleaſant Wood; which I did, they informing me that they had a good Stock of Elephants Teeth.

This Village is called *Corra*, and not till this Occaſion known to the Seamen. The burning of the Sea, was ſo very fierce here, that it was impoſſible to come aſhore with Boat or Shallop; wherefore I went into a Canoe, in which, tho' it was filled with Water, the *Negroes* carried me ſafe on Shore. I was ſo deſirous of ſeeing this new diſcover'd Country, that I heartily wiſhed to meet with a good Opportunity of Trading to detain me here.

As ſoon as I was landed, I aſked my Black Pilot, where their Village or Dwelling was; he led me about a quarter of a Mile into the Wood, where I diſcover'd two ſmall miſerably built Salt Villages, one of twelve, and the other of ſix Houſes, whoſe Inhabitants, which were very buſy in boiling Salt, ſeemed to be wild Men, none of them beſides my Guide, having ever, I believe, ſeen any White Men.

I could not ſpeak one Word with any of them: My Guide, who ſhould have been Interpreter, was ſo ignorant of Tongues, that it was not without Difficulty that I made him underſtand me with Words and Signs.

However wild and ſtrange they might ſeem at firſt, they yet afterwards appear'd very civil and courteous; for after I had walked through their Country, I deſign'd to return, becauſe I ſaw no Teeth: But an old Man, that look'd like their Governor, would not ſuffer me, but cauſed my Canoe to be brought from the Shore into his Village, and deſir'd, before my Departure, that I would eat and drink with him; which, being very hungry, I readily conſented to. The old Man did every thing he was able to treat me well; after which he conſented to my Departure, under Condition that I would come again next Day.

Theſe *Negroes* are undoubtedly happy in a numerous Iſſue, and the Women very fruitful; for I acciden-

accidentally ſaw a Woman loaded with four Children; and aſking my Interpreter, whether they all came at one Birth, he anſwer'd in the Affirmative, which induced me to beſtow a charitable Preſent on the Mother and her Children; after which I again ſtept into the Canoe, and cauſed my ſelf to be carried to our Shallop, ſending my Thanks to the old Gentlemen, and telling them, that if they had Goods to Trade with, they might come to *Rio Seſtre*, where I deſign'd to ſpend ſome Days.

As ſoon as I came on Board, we weighed Anchor, and ſailed on to *Rio Seſtre*, and arrived in the Road the 3d of *December*. Before *Rio Seſtre* the Land is very low, and beyond it there are two high Hills, one of which appears like a Semicircle or Rainbow.

About a Mile *Weſt* of this Place, are two great Rocks, and about as far *Eaſtward* a Point of Land ſtretches into the Sea, ſo that this Place is eaſy to be known.

The Entrance of this River from the Sea, is full of Rocks, which yet lye ſix Foot under Water, wherefore it is eaſy to paſs over them all with laden Boats and Shallops, except two of them, which appear above Water, and are to be avoided.

The Village is ſituated cloſe to the Shore, on a riſing Ground, and contains about ſixty Houſes, which are very neatly built, and ſo high, that ſome of them appear three Miles out at Sea.

The Buildings here differ from thoſe of *Mizurado*, only in that here are more Stories.

Rio Seſtre is a very fine and pleaſant River. The Banks on each ſide are thick ſet with high and low Trees. Several Rivulets and ſmall Springs diſcharge themſelves into this River; but what adds to the Charms of this River, beſides the Trees, is the Multitude of Villages all along its Banks; amongſt which is that of the King, ſituated about three Miles up the River, and compoſed of about thirty Houſes.

The King, who is a ſilver-hair'd very old Man, declares that all the Inhabitants of his Village are really deſcend-

deſcended from him; which is very probable, they not being very numerous. He, like the great or principal Men hereabouts, aſſumes an *European* Name, which is *Peter*.

He is a very agreeable, obliging Man, and all his Subjects are very civil, as well as very laborious in Agriculture, and the Purſuit of their Trade.

Their Habit, Fruits of the Earth, Cattle and Fiſh, are the ſame with the before-mention'd People.

Theſe Countries ſeem to live in perfect Peace with other Countries; for all hereabouts, we hear of no other Wars, than a few Skirmiſhes which formerly happen'd with the Inland *Negroes*, who burned their Village by Surprize; but they took moſt of them Priſoners, and ſold them, which entirely ended the War.

The Inhabitants, as I have already hinted, are very induſtrious, eſpecially in the Planting of Rice, which is their chief Employment.

Rice increaſes ſo prodigiouſly here, that in a very ſhort time we eaſily get enough to load a Ship.

Thoſe above the common Rank, drive a perpetual Trade in Rice, Malaget, and Elephants Teeth, tho' the Quantity of the laſt is very ſmall.

I cannot omit their ſtrange manner of Burial, having had the Opportunity of obſerving an Inſtance of it, in the Interment of an old Woman, during the Time of my Trading here. As ſoon as dead, her Corps was cover'd with a Cloth, and the People of the whole Village, neither old nor young excepted, came and ranged themſelves in very good Order round the Corps, and each of them was provided with a few *Banana* Leaves to ſhade and defend the old Woman from the Heat of the Sun.

The Men, in a deſperate and diſtracted manner, run about the Houſe of the Deceaſed, continually and dismally howling, inſomuch that if ſhe had been but half dead, it had been ſufficient to have accelerated her Departure.

The

The Women which ſat round the Body, alſo began to lift up their Voices, as not being willing to be outdone; and if I were to be Judge, I could ſcarce determine which of the Sexes made the greateſt Noiſe.

This jarring Diſcord continued inceſſant for the Space of Twenty four Hours; but on the ſecond Day there was a ſmall Ceſſation, by reaſon that an empty Canoe was brought juſt before the Dwelling of the Deceas'd, into which the Corps was laid; next which was placed a Pot of Rice, and another of *Palm*-Wine, in order to ſupply her, if ſhe happen'd to be either hungry or thirſty on her Journey; and after that the Canoe was filled with all ſorts of green Plants.

After this, the mourning Cry was renew'd, and continu'd about half an Hour; next to which appear'd ten young vigorous Fellows, who took up the Corps and Canoe, both which they carried to the River, in order to be tranſported to the Place of her Nativity, and buried there.

Which I at firſt conjectur'd to be in Obedience to the laſt Teſtament of the Deceas'd; but was afterwards inform'd, that it was cuſtomary for every Perſon to be buried at the Place of his Birth, tho' he happen'd to die at never ſo great a Diſtance from thence; and that tho' the Deceas'd had not left any Effects behind to defray the Expence, the Neighbours were yet oblig'd to bear the Charge.

The old Woman was then carried up the River and buried, and three Days after the Friends and Relations returned home, and brought with them a Sheep and a good Quantity of *Palm*-Wine, to keep the Burying-Feaſt. I kept near them, in order to obſerve them; but they no ſooner ſaw me, but invited me to participate with them; which I was eaſily perſuaded to, by reaſon I had been dealing for Rice the whole Day, and had not eaten. I eat and drank very heartily with them, as long as either Wine or Edibles laſted, thinking I had been very well treated; but next Morning found my Error, for the Relations and the whole Com-

Company came and brought me a ſcurvy Reckoning, and I could not get rid of them, without making each of them a particular Preſent; when I ſumm'd up the Matter, I found that the Expence of the whole Feaſt was defray'd out of my Pocket, which oblig'd me to clap down as a Memorandum in my Note-Book, never again to venture to an old Woman's Funeral.

This, Sir, is all I have to ſay concerning *Rio Seſtre*, which I ſhould have gone farther up, and have more particularly viſited the Country, if any Body had been with me to take care of our Trade, or we had not been bound farther; but the *Engliſh* Ships generally come ſo thick upon this Coaſt, that without utmoſt Diligence in my Poſt, I could not expect to do any thing.

Nay, at laſt, we found Trade here at ſuch a low Ebb, that we were oblig'd to leave this Place on the 11th of *December*, not ſtaying here above eight Days.

Sailing then from *Rio Seſtre*, we found the Shore plain double Land. The Coaſt extends *North-Weſt* and *South-Eaſt*. Three Miles below *Rio Seſtre* is a great mountainous Rock, on which grows a very high Tree: This Place is called *Little Seſtre*; and about a Mile and a half farther *Eaſt*, a Point buts into the Sea, on the Land next which appears a great Rock, which is white at the Top, and at Sea looks like a Ship under Sail.

A little below this we dropp'd Anchor before the Village of *Sanguin*, where we could deal but to a ſmall Value.

Whilſt we lay here, the *Negroes* of *Boſſoe* and *Bottewa* came on Board us with a Canoe laden with Malaguet, for which they deſired only Annabaſſes; ſo that I diſpoſed of all I had to them in two Days time.

I found no other Difference of the *Negroes* of *Sanguin*, than that theſe were bigotted to a very pernicious Opinion, that dextrous Robbery is very lawful and

and expedient. Wherefore we are obliged to deal very cautiously, for they readily buy whatever Commodities they see, but are sure never to pay for them.

The Land about *Sanguin* is easily distinguish'd by several high Trees, which shew themselves *Eastwards* of it.

About a Mile *East* of *Sanguin* lies *Boffoe*, which may be known by a plain Sand-Point; 'tis environ'd with large and small Rocks. Here a *Negro* came on Board, who called himself *James*, and pretended to be Captain of *Boffoe*. He spoke a confused sort of Language, being a mixed Jargon of *English* and *Portuguese*. He seemed a great Lover of the Female Sex, which was the whole Subject with which he entertained us. He told us (unask'd) that he had ten Wives, and out of good Husbandry graciously now and then bestowed one of them on his Son *Joast*, who was on Board with him.

When we represented to him the Wickedness of such an Action, and told him, *That no Place in the World allow'd it*, he laughed aloud, and said, *That they were then Fools to insist on such a Trifle; and that as his People were better informed, they acted accordingly.*

We sent these Heroes on Shore, and left *Boffoe*, in order to pursue our Voyage.

About three Miles farther is the Village of *Bottewa*, situate on the Shore; and half a Mile *West* of it, a great Rock appears in the Sea; and about a Mile below *Bottewa*, another Rock, very like the former, discovers it self; a Mile beyond which the high Land of *Bottewa* appears, consisting of a Multitude of high Hills. We Traded for some Grain of Malaguet while we were Sailing, without so much as Anchoring; for which Reason I had no Opportunity of observing the Country and its Inhabitants, tho' I believe they do not much differ from those of *Boffoe*.

A Mile and half beyond *Bottewa* is the Village *Sino*, which is distinguishable by a great Rock upon a Sand-Point,

Point, jutting a little into the Sea; behind that is a great River, which, according to the Report of the *Negroes*, extends it ſelf far Inland, and is not much leſs conſiderable than *Rio Seſtre*. I could not come at any farther Information, for the *Negroes* ſpeak ſuch a barbarous Language, that they are not to be underſtood without Difficulty. The Coaſt extends it ſelf here *South-Eaſt* and by *Eaſt*, and *North-Weſt* and by *Weſt*; the Land is very even.

We ſailed from thence, and came the 20th of *December* to *Seſtre Crou*. The Land is here flat and low, the Village is beautiful and large, and rather larger and more extenſive than *Elmina*: Behind it the Land is higher, and adorned with a good Number of large, tho' leaveleſs Trees. There are two great Rocks on the Shore, about half a Mile diſtant from each other, by all which Marks this Place is eaſily known.

The *Negroes* here ſeemed to be a good ſort of People, honeſt in their Dealings, and much more regular than thoſe who live higher up: Their Language is utterly unintelligible; wherefore it is impoſſible to learn any thing of their Manners and Cuſtoms. The Cattle and Fruits here are like thoſe at other Places, they being well furniſhed with both: The Fiſhery and the Fiſh are not at all different from thoſe on the *Coaſt*.

Having finiſhed our Trading Affairs here, we ſailed on to the Village *Wappo*, about three Miles diſtant from *Seſtre Crou*. The Marks of this Place are ſeveral high ſtraggling Trees, which appear upon a high Hill beyond the Shore; the Tops of theſe Trees appear very red at a Diſtance. Before *Wappo* a very large Rock diſcovers its ſelf, which ſeems ſeparated from the Shore, tho' really on it: As we ſailed by the Land, it appeared but faintly, if at all. The Coaſt ſtretches *Eaſt South-Eaſt*, and *Weſt South-Weſt*; all, or at leaſt as far as we could ſee of it flat Land, to about three Miles *Weſt* of *Cabo das Palmas*, where a Point of Land

juts into the Sea; which, at a Diſtance, looks like a Dolphin, and hath a large Village on it, and four Trees in the midſt of it, which we took to be Coco's.

We made our uſual Sign to invite the *Negroes* on Board us; but none coming, we did our beſt to double the mention'd Cape, which ſometimes proves difficult enough, if we are too near the Shore. We paſſed it notwithſtanding in the Night, the 25th of *December*, and not obſerving any Villages or *Negroes* next Day, we purſued our Courſe to *Druwin*: The Coaſt from *Cape Palm* to *Druwin* bears *Eaſt* and by *North*, and *Weſt* and by *South*, about Six and twenty Miles, all high and flat Land.

On the 26th ditto in the Evening, and next Day, ſome *Negroes*, in three Canoes laden with Elephants Teeth, came on Board us; and, after giving them their *Daſje* or Preſent, I dealt with them for the Ivory at the deareſt Rate.

I never yet ſaw more covetous Men, or greater Savages: They begged every thing they ſaw; and if we deny them, or ſpeak warmly to them, as to other *Negroes*, they immediately leap over-Board, and make Land; ſo that we can ſcarce Trade with theſe People, otherwiſe than to conſiderable Loſs.

Their Teeth, with which they eat Human Fleſh when they can come at it, were as ſharp as Awls; wherefore I ſhould not adviſe any to ſet Foot on Land here, who is not fond of being buried in their Bellies.

The Land-Marks here are very plain, and render this Country eaſily diſtinguiſhable, partly by its Height and lofty Trees, but principally by reaſon of three or four large Villages which there diſcover themſelves, each of which is ſituate about half a Mile from the other. Behind the laſt Village appears a high Point to the *Eaſt*, where the Land begins to grow into a Promontory, in which is the large River of St. *Andrew*, which

which diſcharges its ſelf into the Sea, and takes its Courſe, according to the *Negroes*, *Weſtwards*, and is ſo wide and deep, that it is navigable with Barks, with which we might come in and Trade, if we were but aſſured the Natives would not moleſt us, which no Perſon is able to give us a ſatisfactory Aſſurance of, ſince here the Inhabitants are the greateſt Brutes on the whole Coaſt; and whoever Trades here, ought to keep Spies aloft, to prevent his being ſurpriz'd by them.

Theſe Barbarians are poſſeſſed of a Country which affords them an envied Plenty of all manner of Proviſion; for Milhio, Jammes, Paquovens, Banana's, and in ſhort, whatever the *Gold Coaſt* produces, is here very plenty; and they have beſides great Abundance of Kine, Sheep, Poultry, *&c.* as alſo wild Beaſts, and indeed want nothing neceſſary to the Support of Life; all which we may juſtly grudge them, becauſe out of pure Croſsneſs they will not ſell any, except the worſt Part of them, which they do not like themſelves; and that at a very dear Rate.

We find even in this Age ſeveral who doubt, whether there are any wild Men in the World, ſo far degenerated from Human Nature as to kill and eat their own Species; for, ſay they, *If there were any ſuch, they would not be diſtinguiſh'd from Brutes by any thing but their Speech, which ſeems to claſh with the Divine Goodneſs, which endowed Man only with a rational Soul, that he might know what was neceſſary for him:* Beſides which, they take it for granted, that no Man can properly be called wild, but ſuch an one as like the Beaſts, ſeparated from all Society, paſſeth his Life in Woods and Wilderneſſes, without any Regard to Divine or Human Laws; and that ſince none of theſe Men were ever obſerved from the beginning of the World, they venture to conclude, that there never was, nor never will be any ſuch. But this Argument ſeems very weak; for Experience hath long ſince con-

vinced us, that there are Men-eaters in the World. Antiquity hath left us Accounts of it; and it is from time to time confirmed by a Crowd of Authors. Our *North-Holland* Preacher hath clearly proved it; and though he is not always in the right, yet what he ſaith of the *Braſilians*, and other neighbouring Nations, is undoubted Truth. But what need I apply to other Witneſſes, whilſt you your ſelf have experienc'd the Truth of it in thoſe Inland *Negroes* which come from the Country beyond *Ardra*, who imagine that we buy them, and carry them off only in order to eat them; which Jealouſy would not probably enter their Thoughts, if they did not certainly know that there were Men-eaters in the World. And as to what they farther ſay concerning wild Men, I will readily own, that there are no ſuch wild Men as they deſcribe in the World; if they will but allow on the other ſide, that ſome Men differ from the other ſo much, that ſome may be comparatively called wild, or Brutes; which doth not proceed from this, that they as well as we are not endow'd with a rational Soul; but from their reaſonable Soul's being degenerated by barbarous Uſages, and for want of Converſation with civiliz'd Nations. Nor are Examples wanting of Men, who, by Accidents which happen'd in their Youth, have been oblig'd to continue ſeveral Years in the Woods, which in proceſs of Time render'd them ſo wild, that they afterwards became afraid of, and fled from all Men. But enough of this, let every one believe what he pleaſes.

On the 29th we left this Progeny of *Cham*, and ſteered *South-Eaſt* and by *South*, *i. e.* after ſailing a Mile and half, we came to the *Sixteen Red Cliffs*, which take up in all about three Miles in length, and in clear Weather are viſible ſix or ſeven Miles out at Sea. I found here neither *Negroes* nor Villages. The

Coaſt

Coaſt bears as above; and from *Druwyn* to *Cape Laboe* is about 27 Miles.

On the 30th ditto, we anchor'd before *Cape Laboe*. The Land declines here, and is very low on the Sea-ſide.

The Village is very large, and ſeems to ſtretch about a Mile along the Shore. Betwixt the Houſes throughout the whole Place are Multitudes of Coco-Trees, as at *Axim*; and if this Land were ſo high as that, and had a Fort built in the midſt of the Town, it would not be much unlike that in any thing beſides the Largeneſs of the Village.

About three Miles on Land beyond the Village, are ſeveral high Hills; and a Mile *Weſt* of *Cape Laboe* is a large River, which runs to the River of St. *Andrew*, and a great many Miles into the Inland Country, as alſo *Eaſtwards*, tho' not very far; for ſailing but a few Miles *Eaſtward*, our Courſe is ſtopp'd by Land.

The *Negroes* ſeem here affable and civil, and were very eaſy to be dealt with, only they held their Elephants Teeth ſomewhat dear at that Time; but that was occaſion'd by the great Numbers of *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Interlopers, tho' moſt of the firſt, which had lately been here.

This Place is as plentifully bleſs'd with Proviſions as *Druwyn*, with this Difference only, that it is better and cheaper. I cannot ſay much more concerning this Place, only inform you what the *Negroes* told me, *That they were very populous, and were ruled by one Chief Captain or Governor.*

Having done our Buſineſs, we weighed Anchor, and purſued our Voyage to *Jaque Laboe*, about three Miles farther, the Coaſt bearing in the ſame manner.

We were informed by the *Negroes*, that they had no Stock of Elephants Teeth; wherefore we reſolved to ſail to the *Bottomleſs Pit* (ſo called

from an Imagination that it really is ſo; but the contrary hath been experienc'd) about four Miles farther.

The Land from below, or a little *Weſtward* of *Cape Laboe* to *Jaque Laboe*, is diſtinguiſhed in the Maps and Charts by the Name of the *Quaqua-Coaſt*; but wherefore ſo called, I cannot determine, unleſs it be, that ſome compare the Speech of theſe *Negroes* to the Noiſe of Ducks, which I cannot confirm to you, becauſe I could not obſerve ſo remarkable a Difference betwixt their Language and that of other *Negroes*, as ſhould make it ſound like Quaking. The Natives call their Country *Adouw*, and themſelves *Adouwſians*; but we follow our Chart, and call them *Quaquaans*.

You are probably acquainted with the expert Swimming and Diving of theſe *Negroes*, which I have ſeveral times ſeen with Surprize. Whenever they were on Board, and I threw a String of Coral, or any thing elſe into the Sea, one of them would immediately dive after it; and tho' almoſt got to the Bottom, fetch it up again: This they ſeldom miſſed of, and were ſure of what they brought up as their Reward.

We paſſed the Night in the *Bottomleſs Pit*, and arrived in the Morning at *Aſſinee*, which we gueſs to be ſeven Miles below the mention'd Pit. The Coaſt here bears *Eaſt* by *South*. Here are no Elephants Teeth, but Gold to be Traded for; but we had no Orders to deal in that Commodity, wherefore we ſailed by *Aſſinee*.

Notwithſtanding which, ſome *Negroes* in a Canoe came on Board me. I aſked them, *How they agreed with the* French? They anſwer'd, *That all the* Caboceroes *of* Aſſinee, *together with their Subjects, were gone from thence, and had ſettled a Mile above the Village; where they continued at preſent, without entertaining the leaſt Commerce or Correſpondence with the* French, *who*

who had only a bare Lodge on the Shore, encompaſſed with Palliſadoes, and provided with five Pieces of Cannon, and them guarded by eight Men, who were well furniſh'd with Proviſions, left there by the French *Ships, but were ſometimes in great want of Water, which the* Negroes *always endeavour'd by Force to keep them from:* So that theſe *Negroes* were of Opinion, that the *French*, unleſs they received ſome Aſſiſtance from *Europe*, could not long ſubſiſt there, but would be oblig'd to abandon the Place upon the firſt Opportunity.

Time will diſcover what Part of this Relation deſerves Credit, tho' I believe that the *French* are not in ſuch a wretched Condition as they repreſented them.

The Coaſt from *Aſſinee* to *Cape Apollonia* bears *Eaſt South-Eaſt*; the Coaſt is in all Parts furniſhed with great and ſmall Villages, but no *Negroes* came on Board us; wherefore I cannot give you any Account of this Country or their Inhabitants.

The now mention'd Cape appears to be low plain Ground; behind it are three high Hills, which are its diſtinguiſhing Marks; without them it would not deſerve the Name of a Cape, than which it is nothing leſs, and would be ſailed by without ever being ſeen.

From hence to *Axim* ſeems to me about ſeven Miles, tho' others think it more. The Land betwixt both Places is very low, and adorned with thouſands of Coco Trees. The Shore is extraordinary broad, flat, and looks as if paved with Brick, and is a fine Road to travel on with Coaches or Chaiſes, as in *Holland*.

At the end of this Shore is *Rio Cobre*, about half a League above *Axim*; but you your ſelf being better acquainted with this Coaſt than I can pretend to, I ſhall conclude this Account of

my Voyage, with humbly deſiring your kind Acceptance of my Relation, aſſuring you, that I have not failed to note every thing which was remarkable. Wherefore, after requeſting the Continuance of your Favours, I take the Liberty to ſubſcribe my ſelf,

Your Obedient Servant,

John Snoek.

From on Board the Yatcht Johanna Jaba *before* Axim, Jan. 2. 1702.

FINIS.

AN INDEX OF THE Principal Matters.

A.

A *Boary* Village; a *Dutch* Lodge there now quitted, *Page*, 18.

Aboeroe, a Country on the *Gold Coast*, 10.

Aboei, a ſmall Fiſh like Trouts, very plentiful in *Guinea*, 262.

Acanny, an in-land Gold Country, 68. *Acanny Sica*, or *Acanny* Gold, the pureſt and beſt, *ibid.*

Accountantſhip wonderful ready among the *Negroes* on the *Slave*-Coaſt, 328.

Acoda, 8.

Acra, an *Engliſh* Fort there, 59. A *Dutch* and a *Daniſh* Fort there, 59, 60.

Acron, a Kingdom of the *Gold-Coaſt*, deſcrib'd, 53. *& ſeq.* The People villainous, *ibid.*

Adja, an *Engliſh* Fort there, 50. The *Dutch* diſpoſſeſs'd of it, 50, 51.

Adomeſe Country, on the *Gold*-Coaſt, a Republick, 19, 20. The Power of the Inhabitants, and the Fertility of the Soil, 22.

Adouw-Coaſt, ſee *Quaqua*.

Adultery, its Penalty among the *Gold*-Coaſt Negroes, 171. The comical Trial of Cauſes upon this Head, 171, 172. In-land Negroes puniſh Adultery more ſeverely, 174, 175. And yet the Women covet it mightily, 176, 177. Adultery with the King of *Fida*'s Wives, how puniſh'd, 331, 332. How in *Benin*. 412.

Agatton, on *Rio Formoſa*, 402, 403.

Agents (*Engliſh*) ruin their Garriſons, 42. 43.

Agonna, a Kingdom on the *Gold*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 55. The only Negroe Kingdom, the Succeſſion of which deſcends to Females, *ibid.* The Wiſdom of the Governeſs, *ibid.* A ſorry *Engliſh*

Engliſh Fort there, 56. The Fertility and Pleaſantneſs of the Country, *ibid.*
Agrie, or *Acerri*, a blew Coral ſo call'd, of equal value with Gold, 102.
Agriculture on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 111.
Akim, a large in-land gold Country, ſends the beſt Gold to *Acra*, 68. Alſo the Name of a Negroe Broker, 34.
Amo-tekki, a brave Negroe General, 33.
Amſterdam Fortreſs (*Dutch*) taken from the *Engliſh*, 51.
Anana's, Fruit and Plant, deſcrib'd at large, 282. *&c ſeq.*
Ananſe, an in-land gold Country, 69.
Ananſe, ſee *Spider*.
Anca, ſee *Cabbage*.
Ancober River, ſee *Rio de Cobre*.
Ancober Country. 10.
St. *Andrew* River, 450, 451.
Angola, 386.
Annaboa, a famous Iſland, deſcrib'd, 390.
Animals on the *Gold*-Coaſt are all light, 226. Several ſtrange Animals, 237, 238, *&c ſeq.* 244, 245.
Annamabo, an *Engliſh* Fort 49.
Anqua, a bloody *Adomeſe* General, 20, 21. His brutal Barbarity, 22.
Ante, a charming Country on the *Gold*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 12, 15, 17. A ſtrange Cuſtom there, 179.
St. *Antony*, a *Dutch* Fort in *Axim*, 2.
Ants in *Guinea* wonderful, 260. 261.
Apam Village, a *Dutch* Fort there, 53.
Apes, their prodigious Numbers, and various ſorts, 10. 16, 242, 426. Their Subtlety, *&c* 243.
Apparitions much fear'd among the Negroes, 134, 363, 423.
Apples (*Cormantyn*,) 274, 427.
Aqua fortis ridiculouſly us'd in trying Gold, 74, 75.
Aquamboe, a great Kingdom on the *Gold*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 56. *&c ſeq.* The Government very deſpotick, 57 They poſſeſs more Gold and Slaves than all the *Gold*-Coaſt beſides, 61, 62.
Ardra (great) 372, 373, 374.
Ardra (little) ſee *Offra*.
Arms of the *Gold*-Coaſt Negroes, 156, 157, 158. Of the *Fidaſe*, 372, Of the *Beneneſe*, 425.
Armies not very numerous among the Coaſt Negroes, 153, 154.
Arebo, a common trading Place on *Rio Formoſa*, 399. The *Engliſh* had once a Factory here; and the *Dutch* have ſtill, 402.
Arompo, ſee Man-eater.
Aſiante, an in-land gold Country, 66. They deſtroy *Dinkira* in bloody Battels, 67.
Aſſagays, what they are, 158.
Aſſembly, ſee *Council*.
Aſſes on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 228.
Aſſinee-Coaſt, 394, 454.
Aſſiſtant's Poſt in the *Dutch Guinea* Company, 81. Their Number, 86.
Awerri, a Place upon *Rio Formoſa*, where the *Portugueſe* have a Settlement, 399.
Awine, an in-land gold Country, ſtrangely conquer'd by the *Dinkirans*, 69, 70.
Authority of the Factors in *Guinea*, 140, 148.
Axim, a Country on the *Gold*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 4, 5, 6, 455. The Inhabitants, 5, 6. *Brandenburgh* Forts there, 6, 9. The occaſion of the lowneſs of the *Brandenburgh* Intereſt, 7, 8, 9. The Government of *Axim*. 138.

B.

Baggs (Mr.) an *Engliſh* Agent intruſted with an ample Commiſſion. Died, 55.
Bakovens (a Fruit) 275, 370.
Banana's (Fruit) 275, 370.
Barter (*Edward*) an *Engliſh Mulatto* at *Capecors* has more Power than all the three *Engliſh* Agents, 44, 45.
Batavia, a *Guinea* River Fiſh, 263.
Batenſtein, ſee *Boutry*.
Beans of ſeveral ſorts in *Guinea*, 281, 370.
Beef very ſorry on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 226.
Beer very good at *Fida*, 369.
Beetels ſee Cabbage.
Beggars, none ſuch thro' neceſſity, but all the Negroes are ſuch thro' Covetouſneſs, 118, 119.
Benin River, ſee *Rio Formoſa*.
Benin (great) a Kingdom. The Government, Manners of the Inhabitants, Trade, *&c.* 404. *& ſeq.* Their Religion, 422. The City or Village of *Benin* deſcrib'd, 429. The King's Revenue, Court and Character, 428, 431.
Berbe, ſee *Wine-bibber*.
Birds on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 248. *& ſeq.* Crown-Birds very beautiful, 250, 252, 368. Other beautiful Birds, 250, 251, 252. Very rare Bird, 254. Several unknown Birds, 253, 254. A very ſtrange Bird, 257, 258.
Board paid to the Author for entertaining a Snake in his Houſe, 358.
Boars on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 236.
Boca de la mare, 426.
Boededoe, a trading Place on *Rio Formoſa*, 402.
Boeſies, the Money of the *Slave*-Coaſt, 337, 341.
Boeſi, ſee *Cabbage*.
Boewa, an *Anteſe* Village, 12.
Boffoe deſcrib'd, 448.
Book-keeper General for the *Dutch*, his Poſt and Profits, 84, 85. Book-keeper of the Garriſon, *ibid.*
Booty of the Negroes, 155.
Boſſum Pra, ſee *Chama*-Elver.
Boſſum, ſee *Fetiche*, and 122.
Boſſum, the darling Wife ſo calld, 169, 170.
Bottewa Village deſcrib'd, 448.
Bottomleſs Pit, 453, 454.
Bows and Arrows of the Coaſt Negroes, 158.
Boutees. ſee *Wild-Rats*.
Boutry, a *Dutch* Fort there, 13. The healthieſt Place in *Guinea*, 15, 93. The Pleaſantneſs of the adjacent Country, 15.
Boutry, River very charming, 15.
Braffo, the Title of the Chief Commander of the *Fantyneans*, 50
An Officer of a King, 165.
Bramba's, ſee Limon-Trees.
Brandenburgh Forts, in *Axim*, 6, 7, 9. in *Ante*, 17, 18.
Brandy, taken to exceſs very pernicious, 92. Brandy-drinking the innate Vice of all the Negroes, 107, 379.
Bread, the Negroes boil it, as having no Ovens, 369. Potatoes us'd for Bread, *ibid.*
Broker, one nam'd *Akim*, impoſes upon the *Dutch* Governor at *Edmina*, 34, 35.
Buffles deſcrib'd, 234. An Adventure with them, 385.
Buildings of the Negroes are placed without any regard to the Pleaſure of the Situation, 116, 117.
Buried, Negroes very fond of being buried in their own Country, 223.

INDEX.

C.

Cabbage (*Guinea*) 287.
Cabeſterra, an in-land gold Country between *Acanni* and *Saboe*, 68.
Cabocero's, who they are, 103, 113, 114. Their Power too ſmall, 138. They ſit Judges with our Factors, 140. They conſult of War and Peace, 150.
Cabocers, the Cape, Town and *Engliſh* chief Fort there deſcrib'd, 42, *&c. ſeq.*
Calbary (old and new) Places for Trade in the Gulph, 375.
Camelions, an account of 'em, 244, *&c. ſeq.*
Cannon among the Negroes, 159.
Canoes, Boats uſed by the Negroes, 110.
Cape *Apollonia*, 455.
Cape *Laboe* deſcrib'd, 453.
Cape *Lopez di Gonſalvez*, the uttermoſt Point of the Gulph of *Guinea*, 386.
Cape *Mizurado* deſcrib'd, 440, 441.
Cape *Monte*, 437. The King, Inhabitants, Trade, *&c.* 438.
Cape *das Palmas*, 449.
Cape *Treſpuntos*, 9.
Capot-Trees, very high 276.
Cardamoms in *Guinea*, 285.
Carmon, a *Guinea* River Fiſh, 263.
Carter, the King of *Fida*'s Favourite, 333.
Care never affects a *Gold*-Coaſt Negroe, 101, 102.
Cats (Civet) how bred, 238, 239. Wild Cats, *ibid.*
Cauſe (very remarkable) between two Negroes, adjudg'd by the Author, 145, 146.
Cayman, or Crocodile deſcrib'd, 235, 236.
Ceremonies of Civility on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 107.
Chama Town, a *Dutch* Fort there 18. Poſſeſs'd formerly by the *Portugueſe*, *ibid.* Attack'd in vain by the *Engliſh*, 18. *Chama* River, 19.
Child, ridiculous Ceremony upon a Woman's being firſt with Child, 178.
Children wonderful numerous on the *Slave*-Coaſt, 323, 324.
Child-bearing eaſy and not expenſive, 104, 105. New-born. Children how treated and exercis'd, 105. Children how fed, 104. Children do not inherit their Parents Effects, but at *Acra*, 172, 173.
Chriſtiansburg, a *Daniſh* Fort, 59. Seiz'd by the Negroes and retaken, 59, 60.
Chriſtianity, what Notions the *Fidaſians* have of it, 364.
Circumciſion uſual, *&c.* Whence deriv'd, 179, 180, 329, 414.
Cocoes (*Guinea*) 270, 271.
Cold, *ſee* Seaſons
Commany, a Kingdom on the *Gold*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 23. A *Dutch* Fort at little *Commany*, where happen'd a remarkable Accident, 23, 24. And likewiſe an *Engliſh* Fort very ſtrong, 27. A true Account of the War between *Commary* and the *Dutch*, 25, *&c. ſeq.* The King of *Commany* murder'd by the *Engliſh*, 33.
Complements of the Negroes, 107, 108.
Concubines among the Negroes, 172.
Congo a *Dutch* Houſe there, 47.
Conjurers among the Negroes, 132.
Conraadsburg, a *Dutch* Fort, 40.
Conte di terra, ſee *Coral*.
Coral, of a quadruple Value to Gold, 102. *Coral*-Strings, Badges

ges of Honour, 407.
Coral-Feaſt remarkable, 424, 433.
Coriſco (greater and leſſer) two Iſlands in the Gulph of *Guinea*, 375.
Cormantyn (little) a *Dutch* Fort there, 51. *Cormantyn* (great) the Town deſcrib'd, *ibid.*
Corn, *ſee* Milhio.
Corps preſerv'd from rotting ſeveral Months above ground, 222.
Corra a Village on the *Tooth*-Coaſt, 443.
Coto, a Kingdom on the *Slave*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 306.
Cotton in *Guinea*, 276, 428.
Councils (*Dutch*) for the Coaſt, 87.
Cowardice of the Coaſt Negroes, 371, 372, 425.
Crevecœur, a *Dutch* Fort on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 59.
Creation of the World, the Negroes opinion of it, 121, 122
Criſia, a ſort of Palm-Wine, blam'd for giving a ravenous Appetite, 95, 269.
Cruelty inſtanced in a Negroe-General, 21, 22.
Cuckolds ſwarm every where, 170, 171.
Culinary European Roots, grow admirably well at *Fida*, 370.
Cuſtoms paid upon the *Slave*-Trade, 339, 428, 429.

D.

D*Ambay's*, a Gold Weight, 75.
Danes were once Maſters of *Tocorary* Fort
Daniſh Fort, *Chriſtiansburgh*, at *Acra*, the only one they have on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 59. 60.
Daniſh Mount, an *Engliſh* Fort there, 44, 45. Neglected by the *Engliſh*, *ibid.*
Dapper (Dr.) in his Deſcription of *Africa*, vainly pretends to expreſs the Negroe Words, 112.
Days religious obſerv'd by the Negroes, 128, 129. Lucky and unlucky, among the in-land, but not the Coaſt Negroes, 134, 135.
Death, the Negroes Enquiry after the Cauſes of it, 217. Their ridiculous Opinions upon that Head, 217, 218. The Queſtions put to the Dead and the Reſponſes, 219, 220. Wives ſhav'd upon the Death of their Husbands, 220.
Debts villanioufly recover'd among the Negroes, 148.
Debts, a frequent occaſion of War, 150. 151.
Degrees of Men amongſt the Negroes five, and thoſe enumerated, 112, 113.
Deity, the Negroes Opinion of it, 121, 347, 348, 423.
Devil's Mount, a very high Hill enrich'd with Gold, 55.
Devil baniſh'd annually in a ſolemn Proceſſion, 133, 134. The Negroes never conſult the Devil, 219. 220. The *Fidaſians* Idea of him, 363, 364. The Opinion of the People of *Benin*, 423.
Diet of the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 106. In *Great Benin*, 409.
Dikjeſchoft; ſee *Infuna*.
Dinkira, an in-land gold Country, deſcrib'd, 63, *&c ſeq.* The fatal and ſudden Deſtruction of that potent Land, 65, *&c ſeq.*
Director-General, *ſee* Governor-General.
Diſeaſes of the Negroes, 94. *&c ſeq.*
Dogs, a Fiſh improperly call'd *Sea-Dogs*, 264, 265. *Wild-Dog*, ſee *Jackall*.
Dog's Fleſh lov'd by the Negroes, 228,

228, 229, 426. *Europeans* Dogs degenerate on the Coaſt, 229.
Dorothea, a *Brandenburgh* Fort in *Axim*, 9.
Dreſs of the *Gold*-Coaſt Negroes, 102, 103, 104.
Drinking, one great occaſion of Sickneſs and Mortality, 93.
The Natives of the *Gold*-Coaſt, Men, Women, and Children, great Drinkers, 107.
Druwin, on the Ivory-Coaſt, 450.
Drums, Inſtruments of Muſick among the Negroes, 118.
Ducks on the Coaſt, 230.
Dutch, what quantity of Gold they export yearly from *Guinea*, 77.
Dutch-Guinea-Company, their Officers and Servants, 81, *&c ſeq.*
Dutch-Forts, in *Axim*, 2; at *Eguira*, 10; at *Boutry*, 13; at *Zaconde*, 14; at *Tocorary*, now abandoned, 18; at *Chama*, *ibid*; at little *Commany*, 23; at *Mina*, 36; at St. *Jago*, 40; at *Congo*, 47; at *Mouree*, ibid. at little *Cormantyn*, 51; at *Apam*, 53; at *Acra*, 59.
Dyes made by the Negroes, 427.

E.

EDucation of Children unaccountable on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 104, 105.
Eggs of *Quadrupeds* and *Reptiles* not cover'd with a hard Shell, 247.
Eguira, a Country on *Rio de Cobre*, 10. A *Dutch* Fort there blown up, 11.
Ekke-Tokki, i. e. little *Commany*.
Elephants deſcrib'd, where found, *&c.* 230, *&* *ſeq.* 426.
Elephants Teeth, how come by, 233. Remarkable Adventures with Elephants, 296, *&* *ſeq.* 383, 384. A ſtrange Skeleton of an Elephant, 385.
Elmina, (St *George d'*) the principal *Dutch* Fort, 36, 37. Taken from the *Portugueſe*, 37, 41. Adjacent Country charming, 41, 42. Chief Factor of *Elmina*, the next Perſon to the Governor-Generrl, 83. The General Accounts of the whole Coaſt kept at *Elmina*, 81, 82.
Encaſſe, an in-land gold Country, 64.
Engliſh diſpoſſeſs'd of *Tocorary* Fort by *de Rutyer*, 18. They attack St. *Sebaſtians* Fort in vain, *ibid.*
Engliſh put upon with falſe Gold, 13. They incenſe the *Commanians* againſt the *Dutch*, 30. They murder the King of *Commany*, 33. They are unhealthy and why, 43, 44. And ſlovenly in their Forts, 49.
Engliſh Fort at *Infuma*, 12; at *Zaconde*, 14; at *Tocorary*, 16; at little *Commany*, 23, 27; at *Cabocors*, 42; on the *Daniſh* Mount, 45; at *Ingeniſian*, 49; at *Annamaho*, *ibid*; at the end of *Fantyn*, 51; at *Simpa*, 56; at *Acra*, 59.
Engliſh Governors at *Annamabo* inſulted by the Negroes, 49.
Engliſh diſpoſſeſs'd of their chief Reſidence at little *Cormantyn*, by *de Ruyter*, 51.
Engliſh, what quantity of Gold they export yearly from *Guinea*, 77.
Engliſh cut in pieces by the *Fidaſians*, for killing a Snake, 396.
Engliſh hated at Cape *Mizurado*, 440.

F.

FActors (*Dutch*) their Power and Perquiſites, 82, 83, 84.

Under

Under, or Subfactors, 81, 82. Factors for the out Forts, 82, 83. Chief Factor of *Elmina*, and the Factors of *Mouree* and *Cormantyn*, may be confirm'd by the Company, 83. *European* Factors, Judges of the Negroes Suits, 140.

Fantyn, a Country on the *Gold*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 46. The *Engliſh* and *Dutch* Forts there, *ibid.* Their Power, Riches and Inſolence, 49, 50. Neither the *Engliſh* nor *Dutch* have any Power there, 50, 52. The *Engliſh* began a Fort at the end of *Fantyn*, 51.

Fernando Po, an Iſland in the Gulph of *Guinea*, 375, 376.

Feſtivals, 115, 116, 134. at *Benin*, 424.

Fetiches, a ſort of artificial Gold, 65, 72, 102.

Fetiche in a religious Senſe, 122, 123, 130.

Fetiheers, or Prieſts among the Negroes, their Frauds, *&c.* 123, *&* *ſeq.* A great *Fetiheer* far in-land, 131, 132.

Fetu, a Kingdom on the *Gold*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 41. The Country wonderful pleaſant, 42.

Fiadors, 405, *&* *ſeq.*

Fida, a Kingdom and Port (tho' very dangerous) for the *Slave*-Trade, 314.

Fida, the Country charming and fertil to a Miracle, 315, 316, *&* *ſeq.* The uncommon Nature and Manner of the Inhabitants, 316, 317. Their Government, 331. The preſent King's Character, State, and Houſhold, 333, *&* *ſeq.* His Revenue, an incredible Sum, 336. The Religion of the Country, 346. 347. Their Way of Worſhip, 349. *&* *ſeq.* The tame *Quadrupeds* in *Fida*, 366. Their tame Fowl, *ibid.* The Wild-Beaſts and Fowl, 367. The wonderful Fertility of the Soil, 370. Their Wars, 370. 371.

Fighting, the manner of it among the Negroes, 154.

Figs (*Indian*) 273.

Fines at *Axim* paid all to our Factors, 143. how divided, 144.

Fiſcal (chief) for the *Dutch*, his Poſt, 84. Under-*Fiſcal*, 85.

Fiſhing of the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 110, 111. In *Rio de Gabon*, 382.

Fiſh on the Coaſt, their various ſorts deſcrib'd, 261, *&* *ſeq.* A Fiſh of an obſcene Name, 262. Rare Fiſh on the Coaſt, 264.

Fockenbrog (an Author) often miſtaken, 40, 275.

Fort (*Engliſh*) that wants another to defend it, 56. All the *Engliſh* Forts deficient, 59.

Fowl tame and wild, 229, *&* *ſeq.* 426.

French Court bubbled by a Negroe Slave, pretending to be a King, 394, 395.

Fraudulence of the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 100.

Fredericsburgh, the *Brandenburgh* Fort at *Axim*, 6.

French hated at *Aſſinee*, 434.

Fruit-Trees in *Guinea*, 267, *&* *ſeq.* Fruits of the Earth, 277, *&* *ſeq.*

Funerals of the Negroes, their Manner and great Charge, 221. *&* *ſeq.* Wives and Slaves ſacrificed at Funerals, 222, 223. Funerals at *Benin*, 417, 418. Strange Funerals at *Rio Seſtre*, 445.

Future State, the Negroes Notion of it, 131.

G.

GAming exceſſive at *Fida*, 329. But little in *Benin*, 422.
St. *George* Caſtle, ſee *Elmina*,
Giant-Devil, 134.
Goats on the *Gold*-Coaſt, a ridiculous Opinion of 'em, 227.
Gods falſe. Every private Negroe on the *Gold*-Coaſt has a particular one, 128; 130. Their Offerings to it, 129. Number of Gods endleſs, 347.
Gold-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 3. The Countries contain'd in it, 4. The Gold is brought to it from the in-land Countries, 63, 68, 69. The upper, or higher Coaſt, but ill ſupplied with Gold, and why, 64. A Computation of the Gold exported by the reſpective *Europeans*, 77, 78. What Commodities are proper for the *Gold*-Coaſt, 79. The true State and Occaſion of its Unwholſomeneſs, 90.
Gold more at *Acra* than on all the Coaſt beſides, 61. Where the Gold is digg'd, 65, 68, 69, 70. What ſort of Places 'tis found in, 71. How 'tis digg'd or gathered, *ibid.* Gold-Duſt different from the Lumps, or Mountain Gold, 72. Pure Gold diſtinguiſh'd from the falſe, *ibid.* The Negroes very expert in ſophiſticating Gold, and how they do it, 65, 73. Several ſorts of falſe Gold, 72, 73. The true way of diſtinguiſhing the falſe Gold from the true, 73, 74, 75. Gold Weights us'd upon the Coaſt, 75, 76.
Gold Mines carefully conceal'd from the *Europeans*. 71.
Gold Bits paſs like coin'd Money, 72.
Gold, the Negroes think there is none in the World but what they have, 122.
Governor-General (*Dutch*) of the whole Coaſt, his Poſt, Power and Perquiſites, 83, 87, 88, 89.
Government of the Negroes very licentious and irregular, 138, 331, *&c. ſeq.*
Grapes in *Guinea*, 274.
Graves of the Negroes, Huts and Images raiſed upon 'em, 223.
Groves, Places eſteem'd ſacred, where Offerings are made, 128.
Guinea, its Extent, 3. The *Dutch* Government upon the Coaſt, 81, *&c. ſeq.* Gulph of *Guinea*, deſcrib'd, 375.
Guns common among the Negroes, 156.

H.

HAbit of the Negroes, 102, 326, 327, 410.
Hares ſtrangely catch'd, 54, 237.
Harts abound on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 236. Several kind's of 'em, 237.
Harveſt-fair among the Negroes, 134.
Hats much valued by the Negroes. 102.
Hatbands of Gold and Silver made wonderful fine by the Negroes, 110.
Hayes, ſee *Requiens*.
Health. The cauſe of the unhealthyneſs of the *Guinea*-Coaſt, 90, *&c. ſeq.* Some Places more unwholſome than others, 93. Wonderful Healthyneſs of the Natives, 94, 95. Tho' they are not long liv'd, *ibid.* Why the Iſle of St. *Thome* is unhealthy, 389.

Hear, *see* Seasons.
Hell, the Negroes have an odd Idea of it, 363, 364, 424.
Hens and Cocks very plenty all over the Coast, 229.
Herbs common in *Europe* not produc'd in *Guinea*, 36.
Herbs of wonderful Efficacy in *Guinea*, 216, 217.
Hogs on the Coast, 208.
Hogs kill'd all over *Fida*, because one of 'em devour'd a Snake, 360, 361.
Hog-Lice troublesome, 259.
Holy-days, every Negroe has a peculiar day of Worship, 128.
Honey excellent in *Guinea*, 260.
Horns a distinguishing Mark of Riches, 115. Us'd as Instruments of Musick, 116, 117.
Horses, none on the *Gold*-Coast, 228. The sorry in-land Horses describ'd, *ibid.* Some on the *Slave*-Coast, 366.

I.

Iabish Country and King on the *Gold*-Coast, 18, 19.
Jackalls on the Coast, 235, 426.
Instances of their fierceness, 295.
St. *Jago* Hill commands *Elmina* Castle, 41.
Jakin Land, 374.
Jammes, a *Guinea* Root, 279, 280, 369. Us'd for Bread, 427.
Jaque Laboe describ'd, 453.
Idleness of the Negroes of the *Gold*-Coast, 101.
Idols of the Negroes, 126. Upon what Occasions they consult 'em, 126, *&* *seq.* 422.
Infants have Incisions made upon their Bodies, 414.
Infuma, an *English* Fort of no great use, 12. Here the *English* Ships are impos'd upon with false Gold, 13.
Ingenisian, an *English* Fort there, garrison'd by one Man, 49.
Inheritance oddly adjusted, 173, 174, 418.
In-land Petentates have numerous Armies, 153.
In-land Negroes much richer than the Coast Negroes, 175.
Insects numerous in *Guinea*, 259.
Interest the Religion of the *Fidasians*, 347.
Interloper (*Zealand*) taken by the *Dutch* Company, 395, 396.
Iron Mount, 48.
Judge, that Office very advantagious to the Factor at *Axim*, 143, *&* *seq.*
Juffer, an in-land gold Country, 64.
Justice, how administred among the Negroes, 138, 139.
Ivory-Coast, see *Tooth*.

K.

Kabes (*John*) a *Commanian*, an Enemy to the *Dutch*, did great Service to the *English*. 27.
Kakeraas, see Gold Bits.
Kings or Captains among the Negroes, the Manner of their Visits, 108, 109. Their Succession and Inauguration, 113. Their Power and Prerogative, 159, 160. Their Courts and ways of Living, 160. Their Grandeur, *ibid.* The scandalous Character and Poverty of some of 'em, 161, 163. Their Drunkenness and idle Conversation with their Slaves, 161, 162. They educate their Children very meanly, 163, 164. Their Officers, 165, 166. The Officers that attend and watch the King's Wives, 166. Their funeral Solemnities, 222, 223.

King's Fish, 262.
Street-Kings, 406.
Kokeboe, a Quadruped describ'd, 239.

L.

Ladies (Negroe) how habited, 103, 104. Their charitable Work at Death, 184.
Ladingcour Kingdom, 304
Lampi, the Country describ'd, *ibid.*
Languages upon the *Gold*-Coast very different and difficult to learn, 111, *&c. seq.*
Law-Suits happily determin'd without Lawyers, 141.
Lay, a good Village for the *Slave* Trade, 304
Legnaen, an amphibious Animal, 241
Leydſaamheid Fort *(Dutch)* 53.
Limons *(Guinea)* Limes, Lime-Juice, 271, 272, 370.
Linſchooten (an Author) miſtaken, 282.
Lizards on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 243.

M.

MAdneſs charged upon Girls, to fetch Money to the King, 352, 353.
Maiz, a ſort of Millet, 278.
Malagueta, ſee Pepper,
Mallaget, a Diſh among the Negroes, 106, 107.
Mamfro, a Hill upon which the *Brandenburgh* Fort ſtands at *Axim*, 6.
Man-Eater, an Animal, 241.
Manceroes, who they are, 103, 138. Their Inſolence and Power, *ibid.* Their unaccountable Diſtribution of Juſtice, 149, 150.
Maners of the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 100, 111, *&c.*
Manual Arts of the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 109.
Marriage among the Coaſt Negroes, the Ceremony, the condition of the married Perſons, *&c.* 168. *& ſeq.* 412. They have no community of Goods, 172. How 'tis at *Fida*, 320.
Med'cines us'd among the Negroes, 216.
Meiburg, a Village on *Rio Formoſa*, where the *Dutch* have a conſiderable Factory, tho' once diſlodg'd by a notable accident, 403, 404.
Melons, Water-Melons in *Guinea* deſcrib'd 284.
Men-Eaters, 450. Men wild, 451.
Menſtruous Women unclean, 179, 328, 416.
Metempſychoſis, ſome ſuch Opinion among the Negroes, 131.
Mice very numerous, 229.
Milk, the Negroes ignorant of the milking of Cows, 226.
Milhio, or *Millet*, its growth, plenty and various ſorts, 277, *& ſeq.* 368,
Mina, a *Dutch* Fort there, 36, 37, 38. The Town depopulated by Tyranny and the ſmall Pox, 38.
Miniſters *(Dutch)* on the Coaſt their Sallary, 85, 86.
Miracle-Mongers among the Negroes, 132.
Misfortunes never affect the Negroes, 101.
Monte de diable, ſee *Devil's Mount.*
Mouree, a *Dutch* Fort there, 47. The Village describ'd, 48.
Mourning for the Dead, how manag'd, 220, 221, 417, 418.
Mulattoes, ſee *Tapoeyers.*
Mullets in *Guinea*, 263.
Murder, the Penalty of it, 141. 142, 331, 419,
Muſical Inſtruments at *Axim*, 117, *& ſeq.*

& seq. At *Fida*, 329. At *Benin*, 422.
Musk-Mice 239.
Mutton on the *Gold*-Coast both dear and very bad, 226, 227.

N.

NAmes of Children among the Negroes, 178, 179.
Nassau Fort (*Dutch*) the best next to *Elmina*, 47.
Natural Disposition of the Negroes, 100, 101.
Navigation of the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coast, 110.
Nets broke by *Sword*-Fish, 111.
Nobility of Negroe Families ridiculous, 110, 115, 116.
Noordkapers, a rare *Guinea* Fish, 264, 383.

O.

OAths solemn, thr manner of 'em among the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coast, 114, 125, *& seq.*
Oath draught, 125, 126, 127.
Oaths of Accusation and Purgation, 125, 126, 421.
Odenna, see *Mina*.
Offerings to Idols on account of Sickness, approv'd by some *Europeans*, 216. Offerings to Snakes, 349, 350. Offerings in *Benin*, 423, 424.
Offra, the *Dutch* had once a Factory there, 374.
Ogwa, see *Cobocors*.
Officers and Servants to the *Dutch-Guinea*-Company, their Rank, Number; Duty and Profit, 81, *& seq.*
Orange Fort (*Dutch*) 14.
Oranges (*Guinea*) 271, 370.
Ovens, none among the Negroes, 369.
Oxen, Negroes ignorant of gelding Bullocks into Oxen, 225.
Oysters in great Numbers growing on Trees in the *Boutry* River, 16.

P.

Paan, what, 102, 103, 104.
Palm-Tree of wonderful use in *Guinea*, 267, 268. Palm-Oil, *ibid.* 370. palm-Wine, how made and its Qualities, 268, 269. Palm Cabbage, 271. Palm-Wine drunk to excess very pernicious, 92.
Papaye Trees rightly describ'd, 272
Papists more proper to convert the Negroes to Christianity, than Protestants, 129.
Paradise Grains, *see* Pepper.
Pardon-Tree and Wine, 269, 270. 370.
Parochites, or *Guinea* Sparrows, 255.
Parrots on the Coast, 255, 256. They are all here blue, 255.
Patience-Fort, see *Leyd-saamheid*.
Pepper (*Guinea*) of several sorts, 285, 370.
Perjury no new thing among the Negroes, 140.
Pheasant on the *Gold* Coast, the most beautiful Bird in Nature, 248. *Fidase* Pheasant, 248.
Phidalgors, or Vice-Roys, 336.
Physicians often changed by the Negroes, 215. see Sickness.
Piement, see Pepper.
Pidgeons on the *Gold*-Coast, 230.
Pimp, some Negroes pimp for their own Wives, 170.
Pipes go off well at *Fida*, 367.
Pisang-Tree, 273.
Pisse-Pamphers, a delicate Fish, 262.
Pockeso, a Village in *Axim*, 6.
Pokkoe, a wonderful Bird, 252, 253

Polygamy common among the Negroes, 169, 170, 411. They place their Glory in it, 174. They can't depart from it, 364. 'Tis the greatest Obstacle to their Conversion to Christianity, *ibid.*
Ponni, the Limit, or end of the *Gold*-Coast, 4, 58, 301. The *Dutch* design'd a Fort there, but drop'd it, 58.
Popo (little) a Kingdom on the *Slave*-Coast describ'd, 308. Their Wars with *Coto* and *Fida*, 306, 309, 310. They are very fraudulent, 311.
Popo (great) a Kingdom on the *Slave*-Coast, 312, *& seq.* The *Dutch* had a Lodge here, 313.
Porcupines very daring and strong, 237. An Engagement between a Porcupine and a Snake, 290.
Portuguese, the first Settlers upon the *Gold*-Coast, 2. They have a considerable private Trade there, 77, 78. But unlucky in the Mutinie of their Slaves, 343. They have a Lodge upon *Rio Formosa*, 399.
Portuguese, a Bird so called, 251.
Potatoes (*Guinea*) 280, 369.
Potto, an ugly Creature describ'd, 237.
Pox (small) depopulate the Town of *Mina*, 38. They are a National Disease all over the Coast, and sweep off many, 94.
Pregnant Women denied their Husbands Embraces, 414.
Presents, the Negroes at *Fida* will do nothing without em, 380. But those of *Benin* give Presents, 409.
Princes-Islands in the Gulph of *Guinea*, 375. They belong to the *Portuguese*, 376.
Priests among the Negroes, their Frauds, Tricks, *&c.* 125, *& seq.* Their great Authority in War, 156. Their Frauds in the Snake Worship, 356, *& seq.* Their Tyranny, 357.
Priestesses, 363.
Prisoners of War, how treated, 155.
Privities of Enemies cut off for a Trophy, 373.
Procreation successful, on the *Slave*-Coast, 323, 416.
Punch pernicious to the *English*, 43.
Pyrate (*French*) comically manag'd by *Thomas Kent*, an *English* Commander, 393.

Q.

Quadrupeds tame and wild on the *Gold*-Coast, 225, *& seq.* On the *Slave*-Coast, 366. *& seq.*
Quahoe, a Country abounding with Gold, 304.
Quaker-Wine, drawn from a sort of Palm, call'd *Quaker*, 50, 269.
Quaqua-Coast, 394, 454.

R.

Rains continue long upon the Coast, 96, 97.
Rats very troublesome on the *Gold*-Coast, 229. Wild Rats, 238. Rats exceeding numerous at *Pepo*, 312.
Religions (several) of the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coast, 121, *& seq.*
Reptiles in *Guinea* describ'd, 257, *& seq.*
Requiens, a rare and very voracious Fish, 264, 265. An odd Story of one of 'em, 266.
Rewards of Good and Evil, the Negroes Opinion of 'em, 130, 131.

Rice

Rice (*Guinea*) 279, 427, 446,
Rio de Cobre, a fine River, the beginning of the *Gold*-Coast, 3, 10, 455.
Rio de St. Juan, ſee *Chama*-River.
Rio Volta, a fine, but very rapid River, 305.
Rio Formoſa, a Trading-River in the Gulph of *Guinea*, 375. Deſcrib'd at large, 398, *&c. Seq.* 'Tis ſtrangely unhealthy, 400.
Rio d' Elrei, 375.
Rio de Gabon deſcrib'd, 377. The Trade of this River, *ibid.* The Nature and Manners of the Inhabitants, 378, *&c.*
Rio Junk deſcrib'd, 442.
Rio Seſtre deſcrib'd, 444. The ſtrange Manner of Burial there, 445, 446. 'Tis much frequented by *Engliſh* Ships, 447.
Rivers ſalt, 40, 54.
River-Fiſh in *Guinea*, 263, *&c.*
Roads, the Negroes negligence in making them, 117.
Robbery, the Penalty of it, 142. 'Tis reckon'd no Crime, 447, 448.

S.

Saboe, a Kingdom on the *Gold*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 46, 47. They ſent an Embaſſy to *Amſterdam*, 48.
Sabbath of the Negroes, 134, 424.
Sacrifices of Men uſual among the Negroes, 223.
Salades would grow admirably in *Guinea*, 370.
Salamanders, 244.
Salt, a River ſalter than the Sea, and why, 40. Another Salt-River, 54.
Salt, how boil'd by the Negroes, 288, 289. 'Tis very white, *ibid.*
Salutations of the Negroes, 107.
Sand point in the Mouth of *Rio de Gabon*, 383.
Sanguin Village deſcrib'd, 447, 448
Scorpions of *Guinea*, 259.
Sea-buthings, 305, 314, 443.
Sea held to be a God, 349. How and when worſhip'd, 362.
Seaſons, their Difference upon the Coaſt, 90, 91, 96, 97, 98.
St. *Sebaſtians*, a *Dutch* Fort, ſee *Chama*.
Seſtre (little) 447.
Seſtre (*Rio*) ſee *Rio*.
Seſtre Cron, 449.
Sheep ſmall and hairy (not woolly) 226.
Shields, two, a Mark of Honour, 115, 116.
Shields, how us'd in War, 158.
Ship-Commanders not fit to trade with the Negroes, 84. They aſpire to great Titles, 159. They do Miſchief, 339.
Sickneſs upon the Coaſt, how caus'd, 91. The moſt proper Remedies, 92, 327. Cuſtoms of the Negroes relating to Sickneſs, 213, 327. The Prieſts are the Doctors, 213. And gratefully us'd, 214. Offerings to their Idols on the account of Sickneſs, 214, 215, 327, 362.
Simbe, a pleaſant Village in *Fetu*, 42.
Simpa, an *Engliſh* Fort there, 56.
Sino Village, 448.
Sins, what are reckon'd ſuch by the Negroes on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 131.
Sixteen red Cliffs on the *Tooth*-Coaſt, 452.
Slaves, more ſold in *Aquamboe* than on all the Coaſt beſides, 61, 62.
Slaves imploy'd by their Maſters to trade with the *Europeans* for

for their Gold, 80, 81. Riches consist in the Multitude of Slaves, 174.
Slaves mark'd with Burning-Irons, 340, 341.
Slave-Coast describ'd, 303, *&c. seq.*
Slave-Coast Negroes differ much from those of the *Gold*-Coast, 320. *Slave*-Trade, where carried on, 307, 313, 319, 320, 357. The *Fidasians* can deliver 1000 Slaves a Month, 319.
How the *Slave*-Trade is managed at *Fida*, 339, *&c. seq.* How the Slaves live on board the *Dutch* Ships, 341, 342. Women-Slaves, a fourth or fifth Part cheaper than Men, 341. Mutinies of the Slaves, 342, 343.
Sluggard, *see* Potto.
Smithery the Negroes chief Handicraft, 109.
Smitten, a Kind of Ape of the largest Size. 242.
Snakes, the chief Gods of *Fida*, 349. How worship'd, 350.
Snake-house, where the chiefest Snake is thought to reside, 350.
Snakes must not be troubled under pain of Death, 356.
Snake-River, see *Rio de Cobre*.
Snakes numerous, various and hideous great, 257. Some with two Heads, 258. Some taken of prodigious length, 290. Instances of their Venom, 290, 291. The Idol Snakes do no harm, 358.
Soap, how made in *Guinea*, 428.
Sobriety and Temperance does not insure Health upon the *Guinea*-Coast, 92.
Soldiers in the *Dutch-Guinea* Company cannot be prefer'd in the Civil List, 81.
Sorceress imposes upon the Negroes, 364.
Spider, a prodigious big sort to which the Negroes attribute the Creation of the first Man, 300.
Star-Birds, 256.
Stealing of Men severely punish'd, 143. But stealing of Cattle rather more, *ibid.*
Stealing with Impunity at *Fida* upon the Death of the King, 345.
Storms very violent on the Coast, 97, 98, 99.
Streets in *Benin* as clean as in *Holland*. 430.
Stupidity unaccountable of the Negroes, 101.
Summer upon the Coast, when it begins, 96.
Swedes were once Masters of *Tocorary* Fort, 17.
Swimming and Diving, the Negroes very expert at it, 454.
Swine wild, 384.
Swords of the Negroes, 157.
Sword-bearers to the Negroe Kings, 165.
Sword-Fish on the Coast, 264.
Superstition unaccountable, 133, 134.

T.

Tacoe, a gold Weight, 75.
Tacrama Village, a *Brandenburgh* Fort by it, 9.
Takoe, its value, 279.
Tamarind-Trees, 370.
Tapoeyers or *Mulattoes*, both Men and Women scandalously wicked, 119, 120.
Tarragon plentiful in *Guinea*, 286.
Tekki-Ankan, the present King of *Commany*, 29.
Thievery, how discover'd among the Negroes, 124, 125. Wonderfully improv'd on the *Slave*-Coast,

Coaſt, 324, 325. The Penalty at *Benin*, 419.
St. *Thome*, a *Portugueſe* Iſland, 388. Called the *Dutch-Church-Yard*, *ibid.*
Thunder terrible upon the Coaſt, 97, 98, 99. The Negroes Opinion of it, 98.
Tie-Ties, or publick Cryers to the Negroe Kings, 165.
Time good and bad, 96. How divided by the Negroes, 134. 328, 425.
Toads terribly big, 257.
Tobacco, Men, Women, and Children addicted to it among the Negroes, 107. (ſtinking) ſmoak'd by the Negroes, 286.
Tocorary, a Village or Fort in the *Anteſe* Country, 17, 18. Formerly poſſeſs'd by ſeveral Maſters, now burnt, 18.
Toll, the exacting of it from the Negroes, a Prerogative peculiar to the *Dutch*, 48. Toll paid for Slaves, 337. Toll for every Slave Ship, *ibid.*
Tooth and *Grain*-Coaſt deſcrib'd, 437, *&c. ſeq.*
Travadoes, violent Storms of Thunder, Lightning and Wind, ſo call'd, 97.
Trees in *Guinea*, their various ſorts deſcrib'd, 267, *&c. ſeq.* Fruit-Trees, *ibid.* Wild-Trees, 275. The Coaſt abounds with Trees, 275. Trees wonderful large, 276. Lofty Trees held for Gods, 349. How, and when worſhip'd, 362.
Trial of Crimes, 333, 420.
Twin-Births, a good Omen, 414. At *Arebo* it entails Death, 415.
Turtle-Doves wonderful plentiful, 249, 367.
Tygers on the Coaſt deſcrib'd, *&c*, 234. Tame Tygers, 235. Inſtances of the fierceneſs of Tygers, and of Tyger-hunting, 291, *&c. ſeq.* A Tyger-Trap, 293,

V.

VAnity of young Negroes, 102.
Veal, very ſorry on the *Gold*-Coaſt, 226.
Venery exceſſive in the King of *Aquamboe*, 58. Early in the Negroes, 95, In the Natives of *Benin*, 413.
Vines, but one upon the Coaſt, 274.
Viſits of the Negroes, 107, 108.
Uredenburgh, a *Dutch* Fort at little *Commany*, 23.
Uſa, famous for Pyrates, 399, 400.

W.

W*Appo* Village deſcrib'd, 449.
War, how the Negroes enter into it, 150, 151, 152. 'Tis not expenſive, *ibid.* How carried on, 154, 155, 425.
Wars on the *Slave*-Coaſt, 371.
Waſſa, an in-land gold Country, 64.
Weights, *ſee* Gold.
Whores, how initiated to their Trade, 181. They are much reſpected while ſound, 182. But are left to die in miſery when infected, *ibid.*
Whores very cheap, 182, 183. And at *Fida*, oblig'd to publick Attendance, 184.
Wild-Ducks, very beautiful, 249.
Wimba, ſee *Simpa*.
Wind, *ſee* Storms and *Travadoes*.
Wine-bibber, a Quadruped deſcrib'd, 239.
Winter upon the Coaſt, what and when, 96.

Wives

Wives, Negroes on the *Gold*-Coast, take how many they please, but seldom exceed Twenty, 169, 174. On the *Slave*-Coast, 40, 50, 3 or 400 to a 1000, and the King betwixt 4 and 1000, 320. Sold on the *Slave*-Coast, 321. King's Wives execute his Sentences, 245, 346. Negroes jealous of their Wives, 412. Wives work hard on the *Gold*-Coast, 169. Traders Wives live easiest, 170. The in-land Wives solicitous to please their Husbands, 178. Unmarried Persons, their State, 191. The Women remain longest unmarried, and why, *ibid.* Women capable of inheriting the Kingdom of *Agenna*, 55. A Practice unknown to any other Negroes, *ibid.* Women of the *Gold*-Coast proud and vain, as well as in *Europe*, 169. Their Dress, *ibid.* Fruitful Women honour'd, 178. Separation from Women after the bearing of ten Children, 179. Unmarried Women-Negroes almost all Whores, 183. Women circumcised, 329, 414. Wood very good upon the Coast, 277. Worms, the Negroes much troubled with them, and how they draw them out, 94. Wood esteem'd sacred, 415, 416. Wounds of Negroes, how they cure them, 95. They are often incurable, *ibid.*

Z.

Zaconde Village, 14. The natural Pleasure and Fertility of the adjacent Country, tho' now desolate, 14, 15. A *Dutch* Fort there, 14. An *English* Fore there, burnt by the *Antese* Negroes, 16. *Zaconde* a healthy Place, 93. *Zay*, the Name of the King of *Asiante*, 66.

FINIS.